STEEL BALL RUN
スティール・ボール・ラン

TO SUMMARIZE A HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The 'Telephone' that was invented by Alexander Graham Bell in 1876 became a staple in 50,000 American households alone within four years.

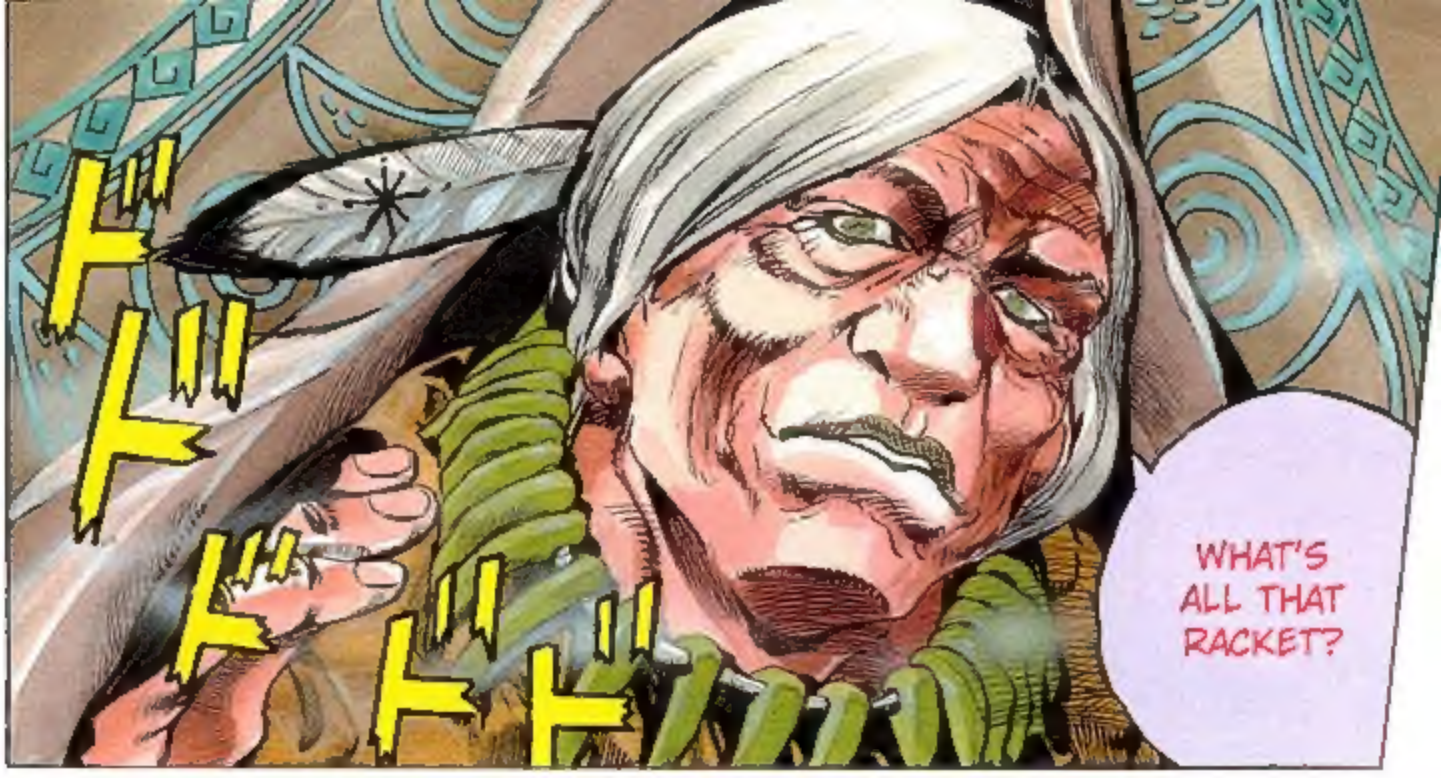
The 'steam locomotive' that crossed the North American continent reached a top speed of 120km/h, and an average speed of 88km/h.

And the public spectator sports frenzy, the Pro Baseball National League, was born in 1876, and the first champion team was the "Chicago White Sox". The race horse "Domino" was the champion of the Kentucky Derby in 1891, and reigned undefeated as the "Black Whirlwind".

And in the first international Olympics that opened in Athens, Greece in 1896, each sport had "prize money" despite strict amateur regulations.

#1 THE STEEL BALL RUN - PRESS CONFERENCE

STEEL BALL RUN
スティール・ボール・ラン
#1
THE STEEL BALL RUN
PRESS CONFERENCE


ドドドドドド
WHAT'S ALL THAT RACKET?

IT'S THAT TROUBLE MAKER 'SANDMAN'.
YOU CAN'T PROTECT HIM ANY-MORE... CHIEF.
THE 'WHITE MAN'S BOOKS', THEY WERE HIDDIN IN HIS TENT.
THIS IS TREACHERY AGAINST OUR TRIBE AND OUR ANCESTORS.
'SANDMAN' MUST RECIEVE PUNISH-MENT...

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ドサ
HOLY BIBLE
ドサァァ

ドドドドドド
HE WILL BE 'SCALPED'...
IS THERE NO OBJEC-TION?

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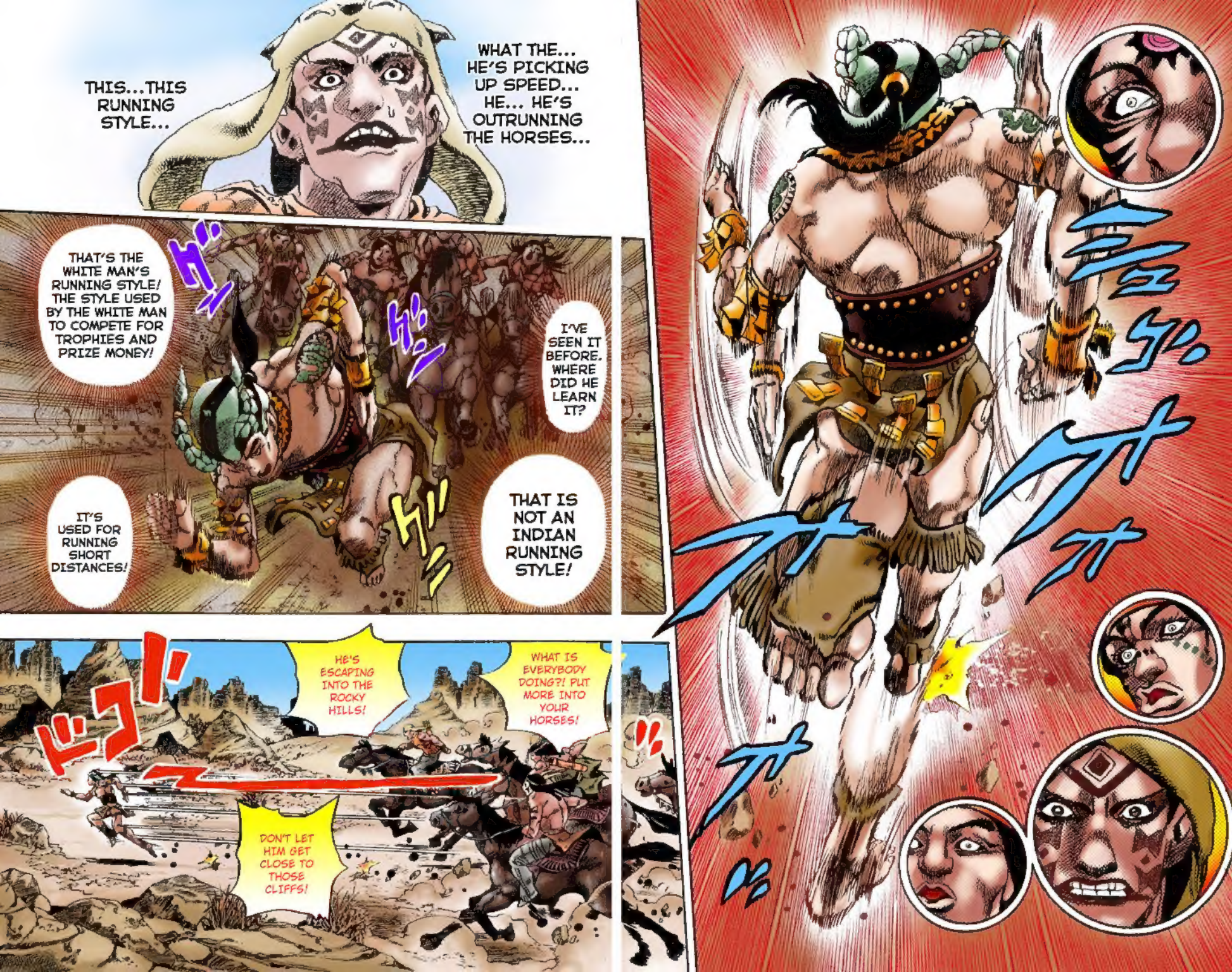
ドン
ボシュッ
ギュー
ドーン


THIS...THIS RUNNING STYLE...
WHAT THE... HE'S PICKING UP SPEED... HE... HE'S OUTRUNNING THE HORSES...
THAT'S THE WHITE MAN'S RUNNING STYLE! THE STYLE USED BY THE WHITE MAN TO COMPETE FOR TROPHIES AND PRIZE MONEY!
I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE. WHERE DID HE LEARN IT?
IT'S USED FOR RUNNING SHORT DISTANCES!
THAT IS NOT AN INDIAN RUNNING STYLE!
ドゴ
HE'S ESCAPING INTO THE ROCKY HILLS!
WHAT IS EVERYBODY DOING?! PUT MORE INTO YOUR HORSES!
DON'T LET HIM GET CLOSE TO THOSE CLIFFS!

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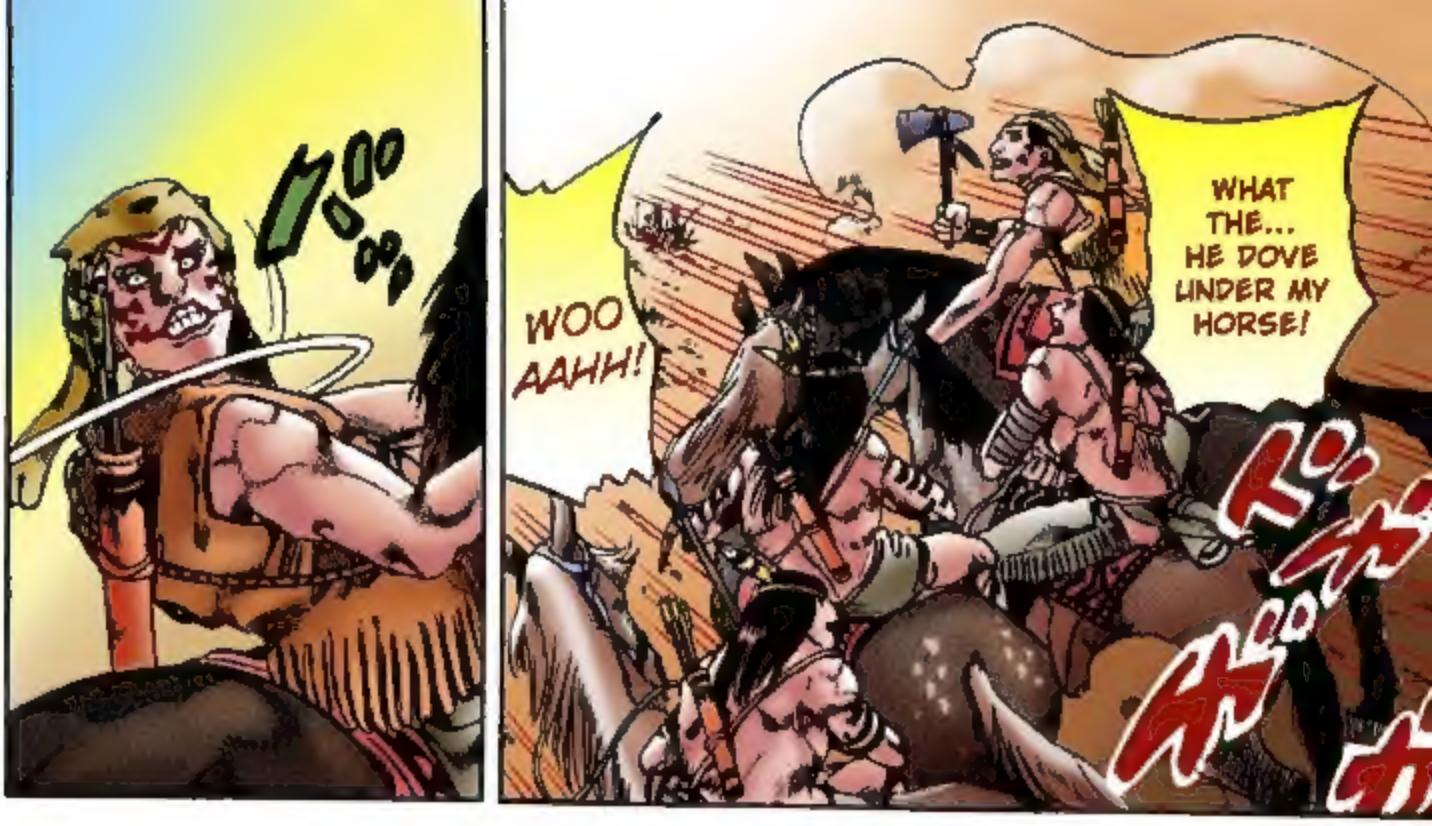
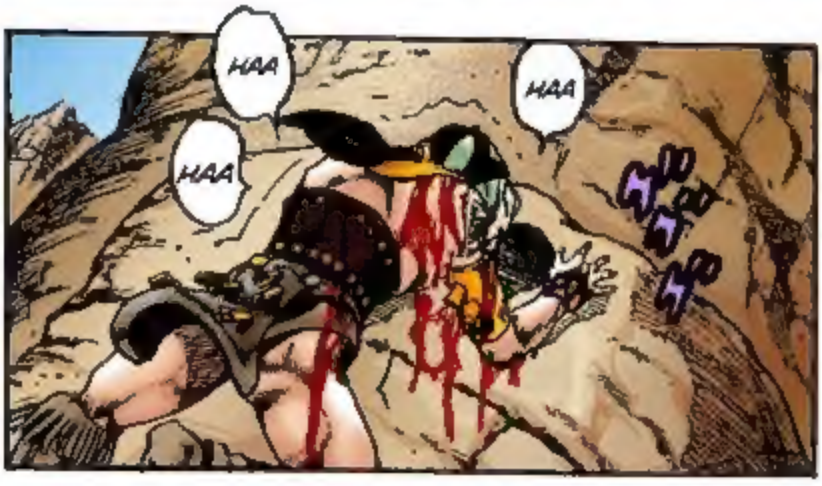
UGAH
AAAA AAAA AAA!
WHAT? ...
UNDER THE HORSE ...

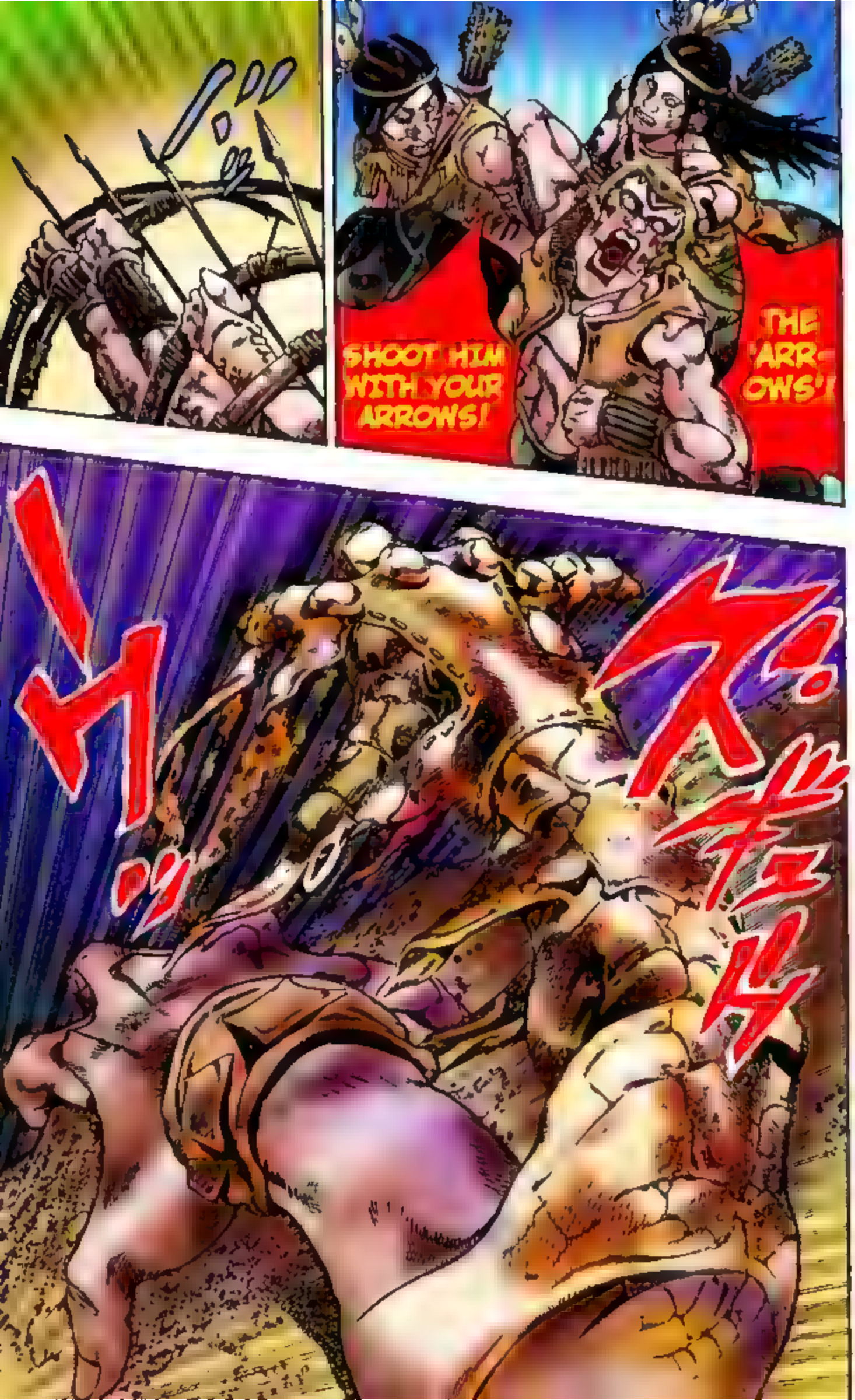

WOO AAHH!
WHAT THE... HE DOVE UNDER MY HORSE!

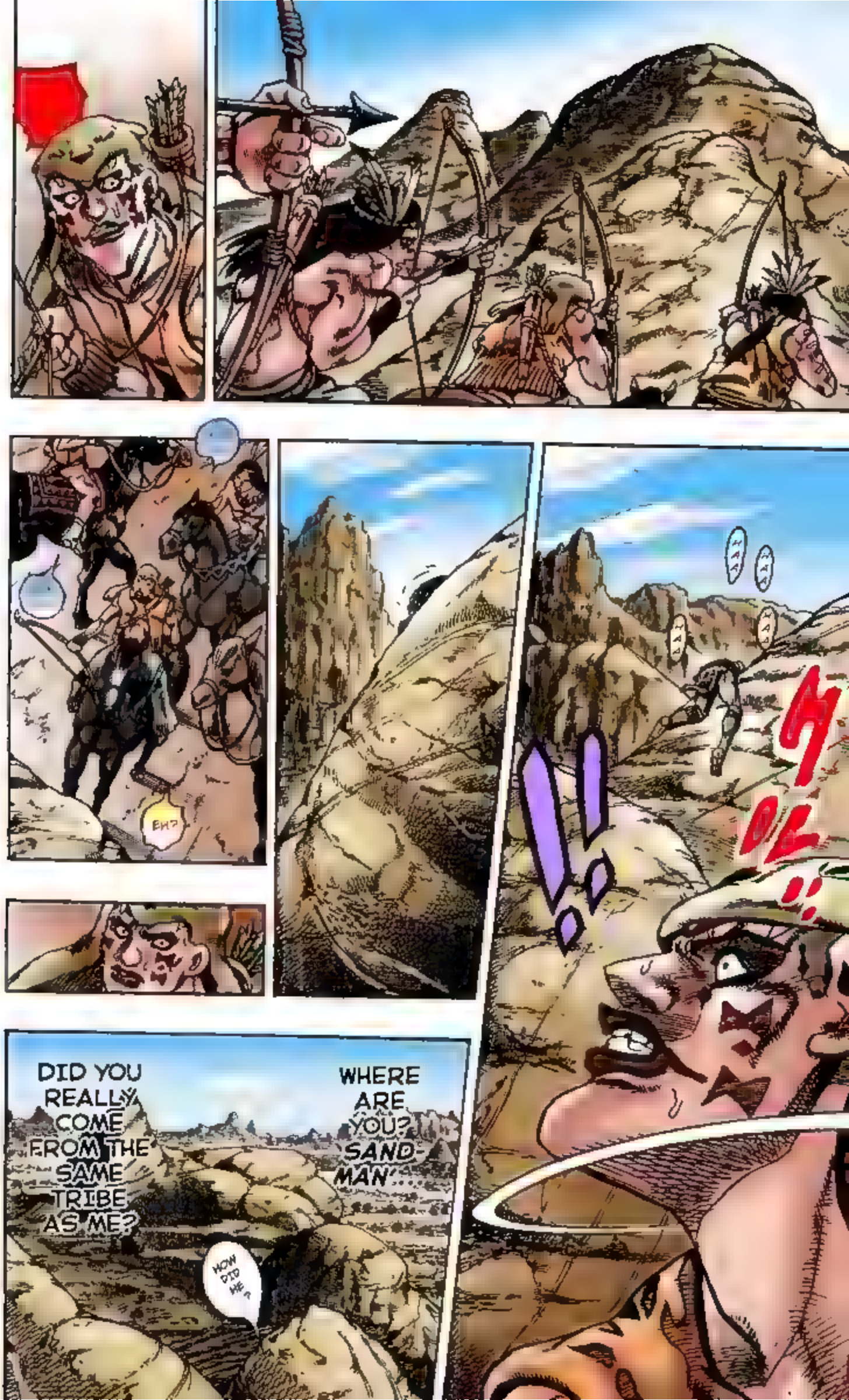

HAA
HAA
HAA

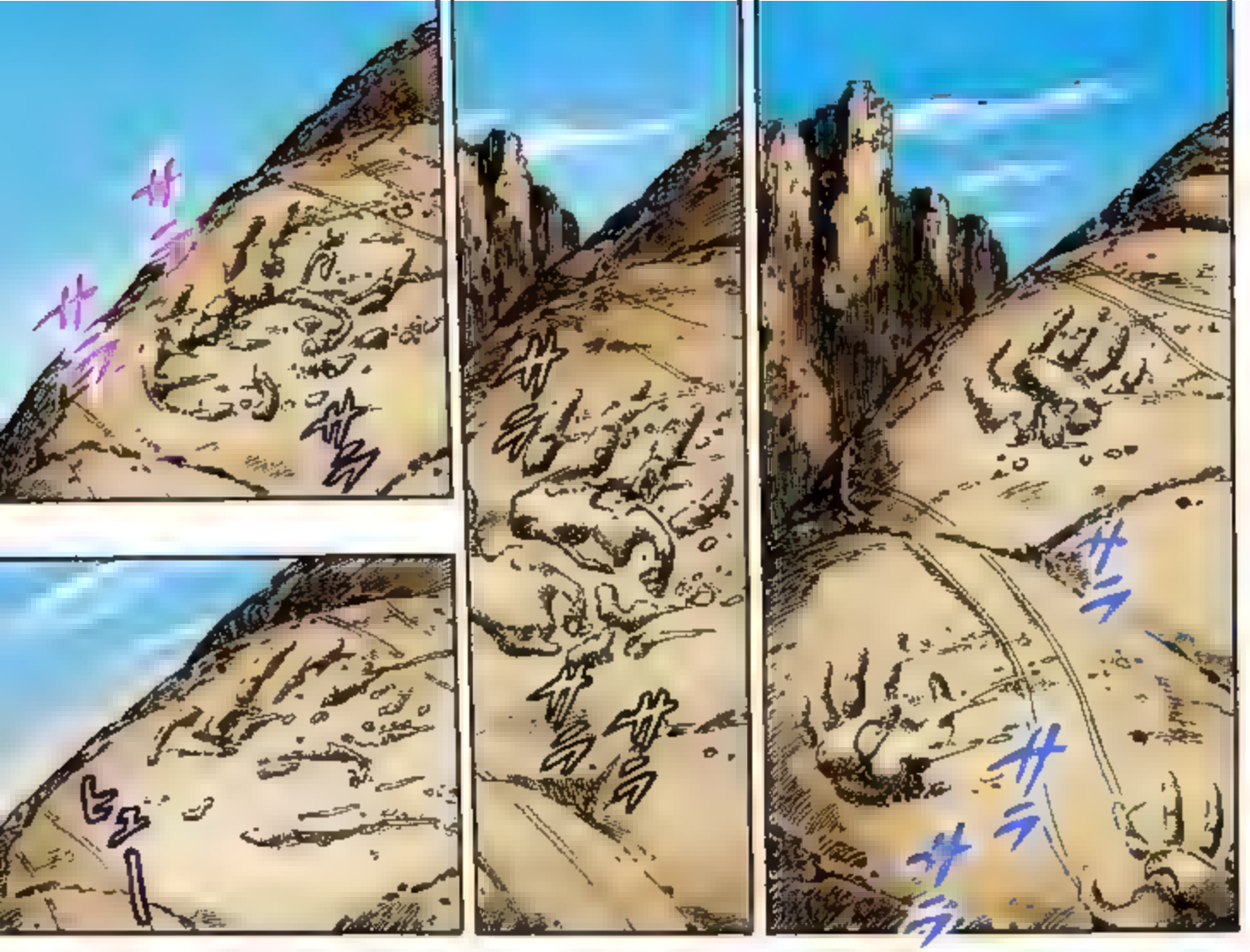
YOU PURPOSELY GOT KICKED BY MY HORSE ONTO THE ROCKS.
ARE YOU INSANE?! 'SANDMAN', JUST WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?

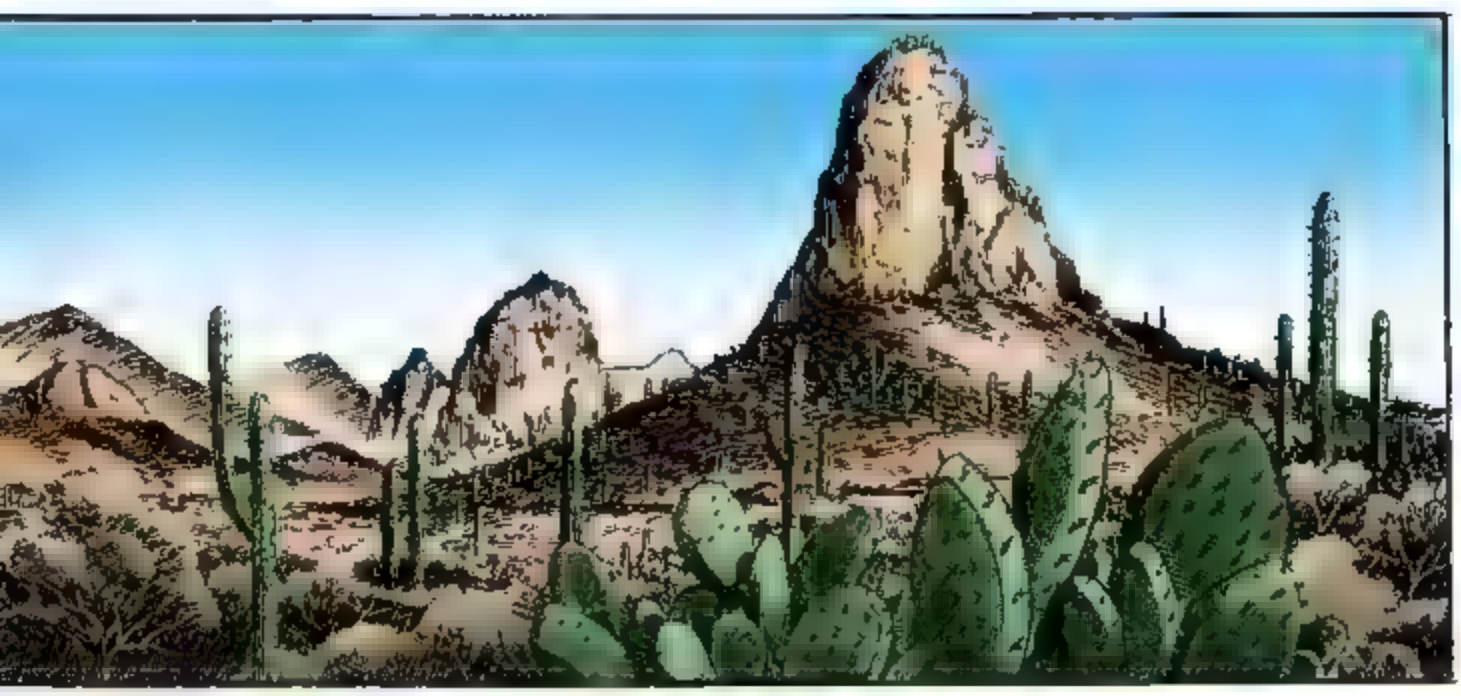
HAA

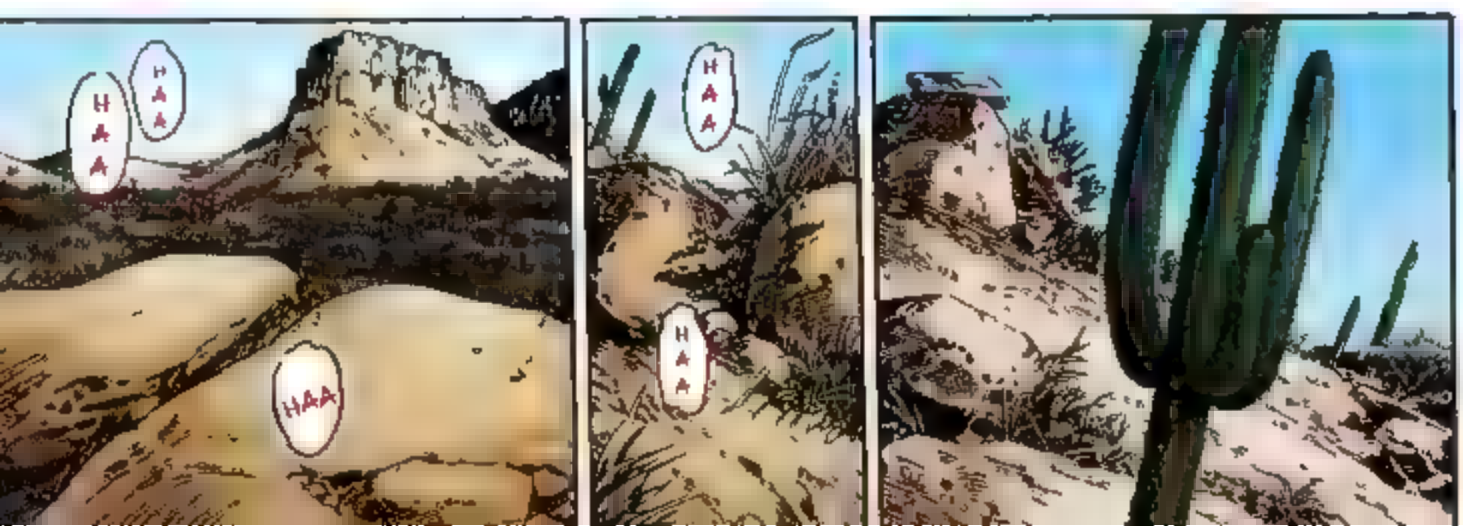
HAA
AND YOU'RE STILL CLIMBING.
HAA


SHOOT HIM WITH YOUR ARROWS!
THE 'ARR- OWS!
HA!
KILL


EH?
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
!!!
DID YOU REALLY COME FROM THE SAME TRIBE AS ME?
HOW DID HE ?
WHERE ARE YOU? SAND-MAN!



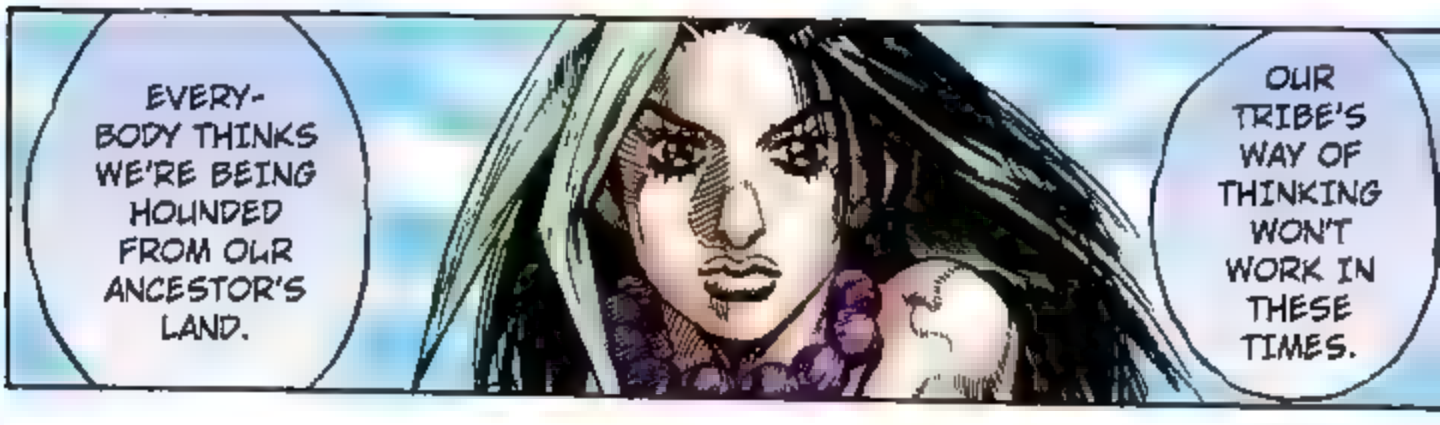


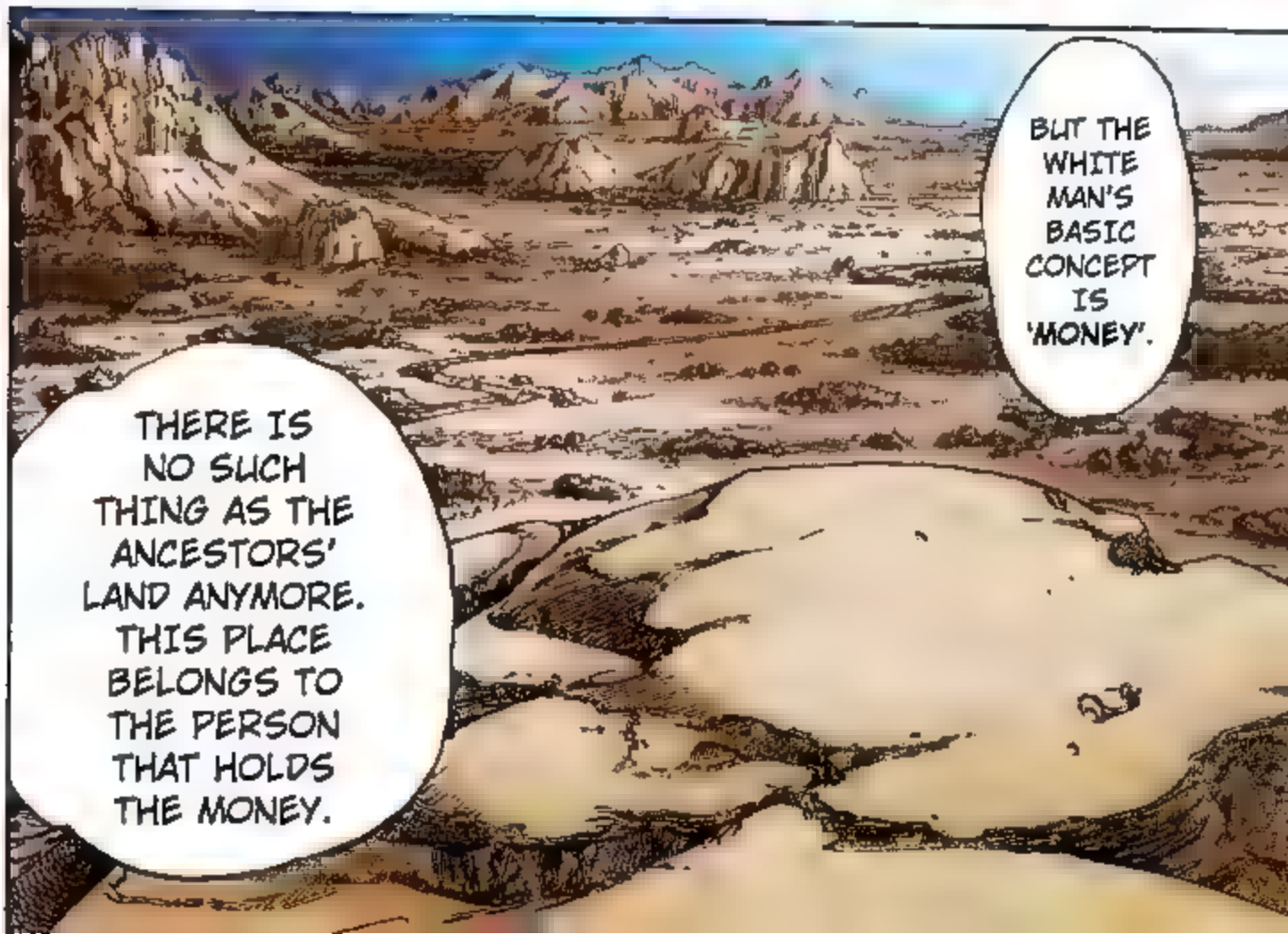

HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA

HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
SO YOU WERE HERE AFTERALL
HUH?
WAAAAAAA!
WHY YOU!
WA AAA! AUGH!
S... STOP IT!
WAAAAAA!

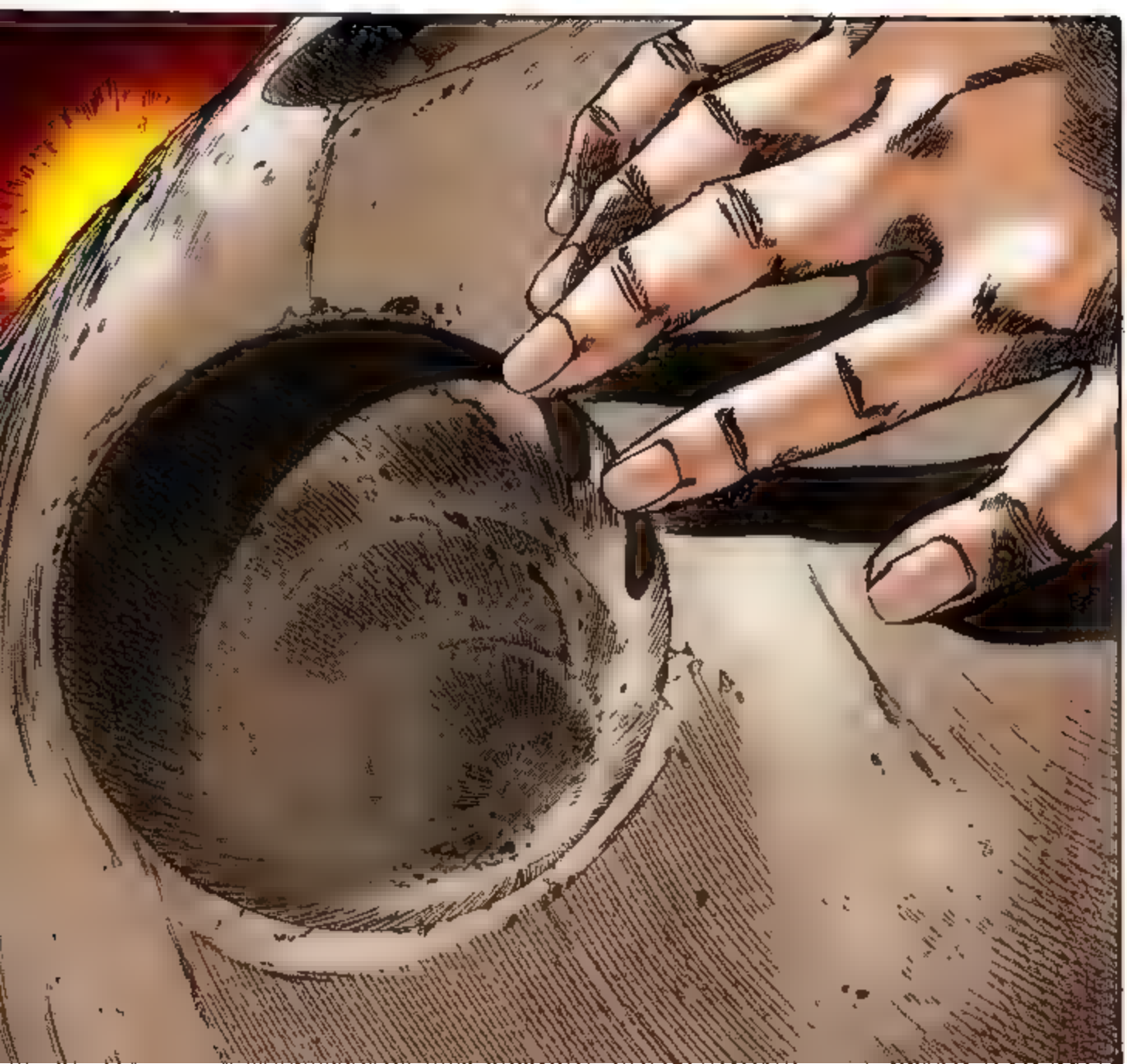
OW
I'M REALLY SORRY, SIS!
S... SORRY!
PLEASE! STOP IT!
PLEASE!
APOLOGIZE, AND TELL THEM YOU DIDN'T MEAN TO INSULT THE TRIBE!
WE'RE GOING BACK TOGETHER, SANDMAN!
I'LL APOLOGIZE WITH YOU.
PROMISE TO THE ELDER AND THE CHIEF AND EVERYONE THAT YOU WON'T READ THE WHITE MAN'S BOOKS ANYMORE.
THAT'S WHERE OUR OPINIONS DIFFER.
YOU'RE WRONG.
BIG SIS.

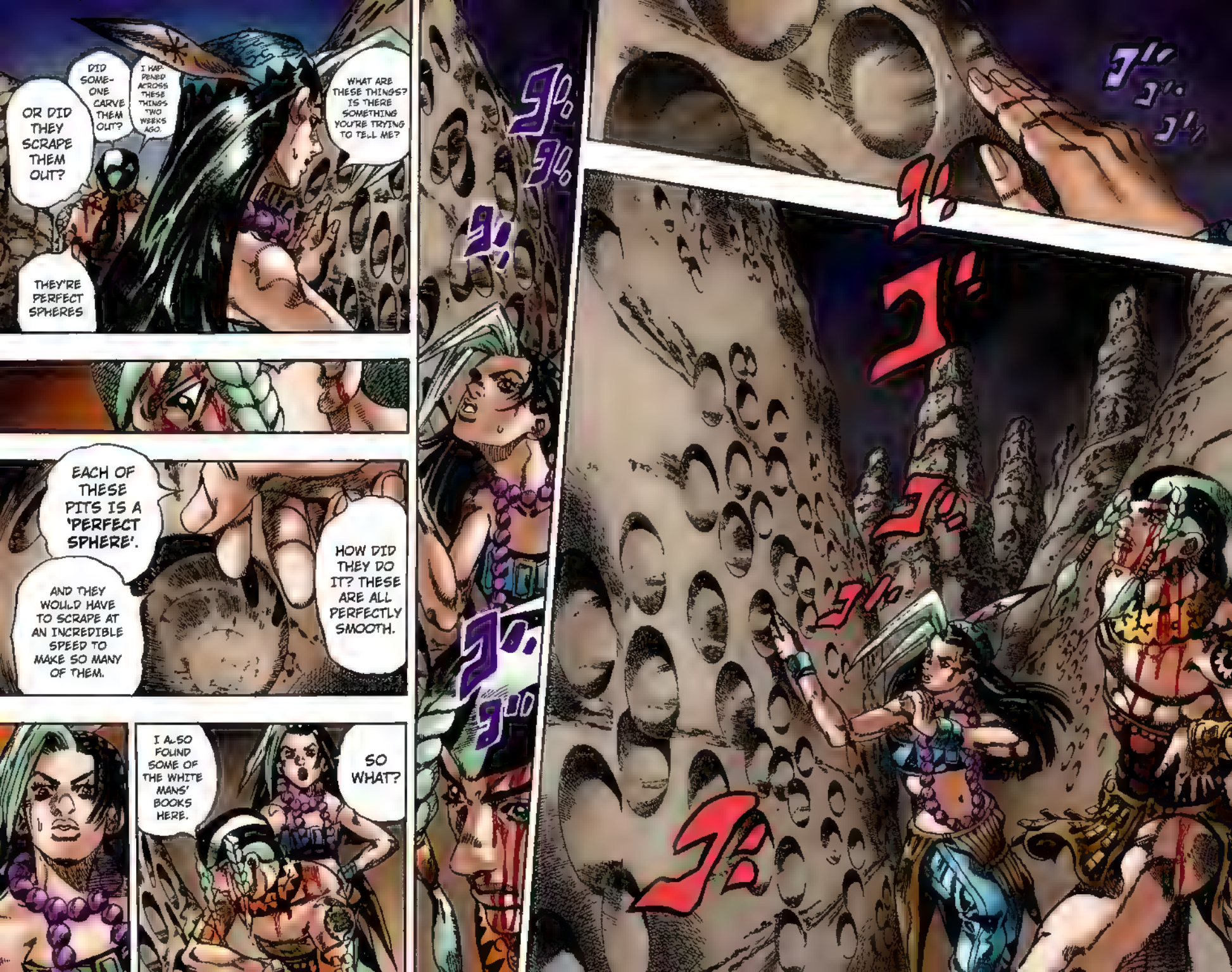
THE WHITE MAN IS THE 'ENEMY'.
PROTECTING YOURSELF BY UNDER-STANDING THE 'ENEMY'S' CULTURE IS ANOTHER WAY.
BUT...


EVERY-BODY THINKS WE'RE BEING HOUNDED FROM OUR ANCESTOR'S LAND.
OUR TRIBE'S WAY OF THINKING WON'T WORK IN THESE TIMES.


BUT THE WHITE MAN'S BASIC CONCEPT IS 'MONEY'.
THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS THE ANCESTORS' LAND ANYMORE. THIS PLACE BELONGS TO THE PERSON THAT HOLDS THE MONEY.

BIG SIS,
LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING
IT'S OVER THERE.
THAT'S WHY NOBODY EVER UNDERSTANDS WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.
ONCE YOU'VE DECIDED, YOU NEVER COOPERATED WITH ANYONE ELSE.
YOU WERE ALWAYS LIKE THAT SINCE YOU WERE A CHILD.

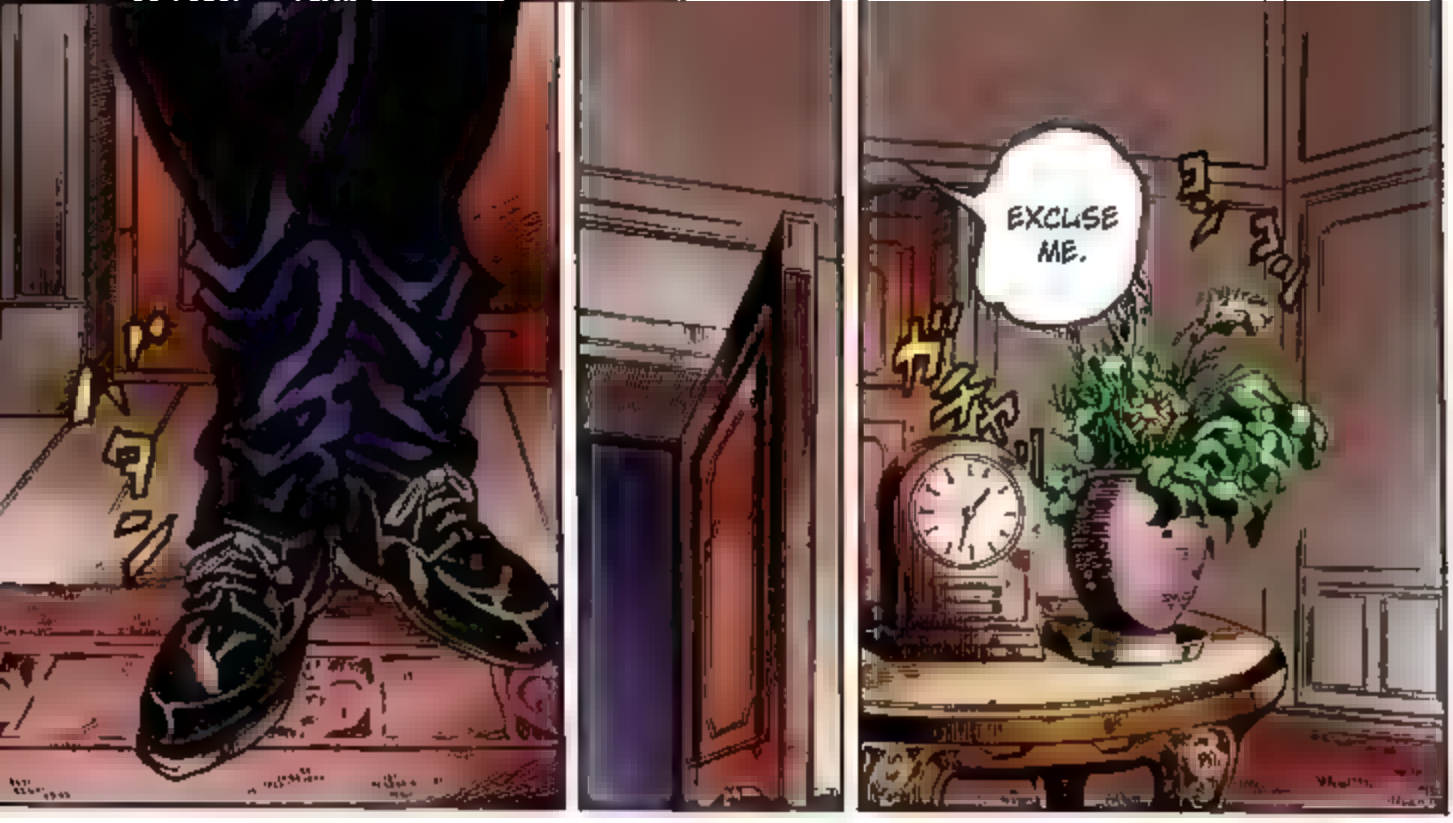


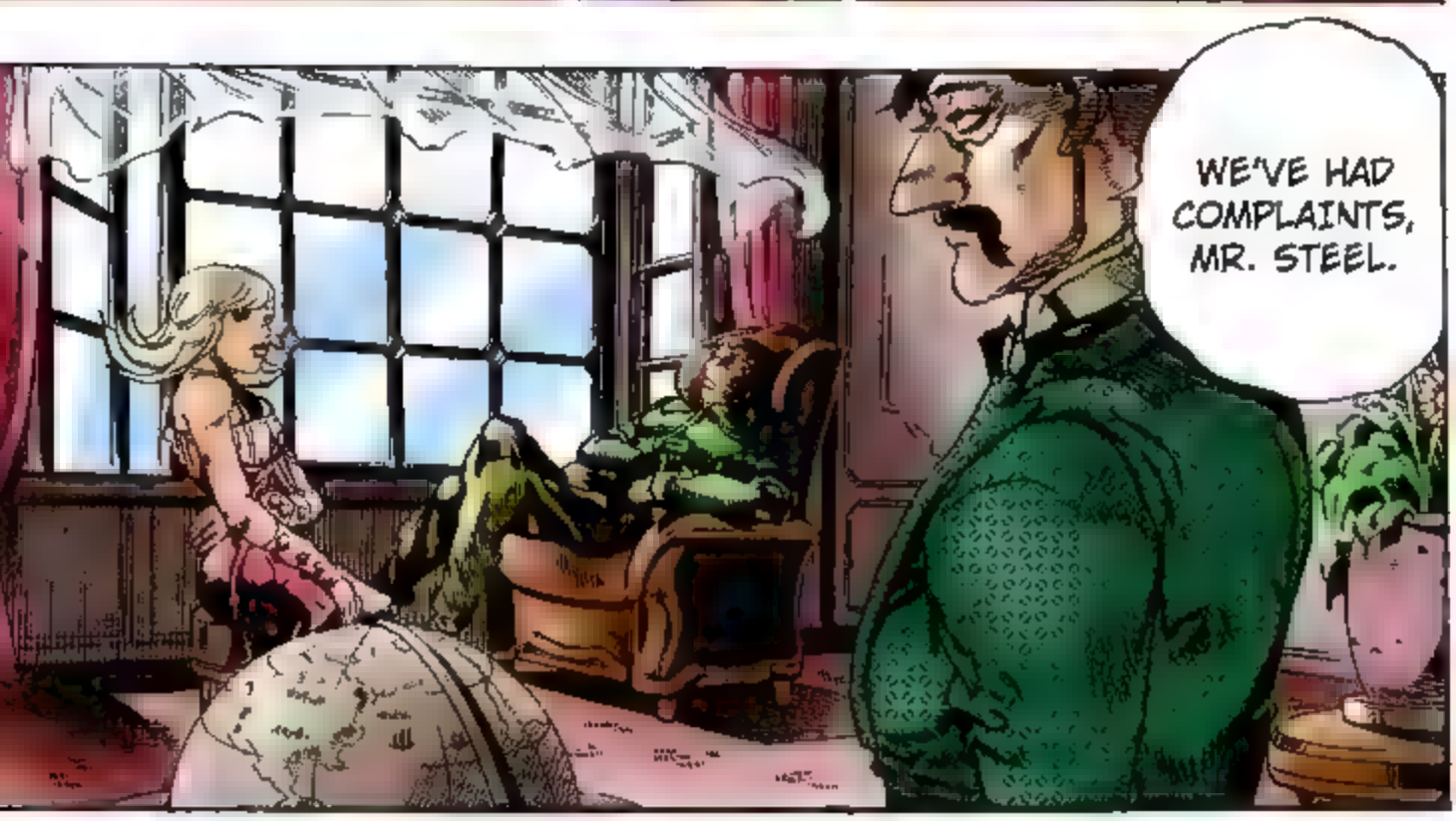

WHAT ARE THESE THINGS? IS THERE SOMETHING YOU'RE TRYING TO TELL ME?
I HAPPENED ACROSS THESE THINGS TWO WEEKS AGO.
DID SOMEONE CARVE THEM OUT?
OR DID THEY SCRAPE THEM OUT?
THEY'RE PERFECT SPHERES
EACH OF THESE PITS IS A 'PERFECT SPHERE'.
AND THEY WOULD HAVE TO SCRAPE AT AN INCREDIBLE SPEED TO MAKE SO MANY OF THEM.
HOW DID THEY DO IT? THESE ARE ALL PERFECTLY SMOOTH.
I ALSO FOUND SOME OF THE WHITE MANS' BOOKS HERE.
SO WHAT?

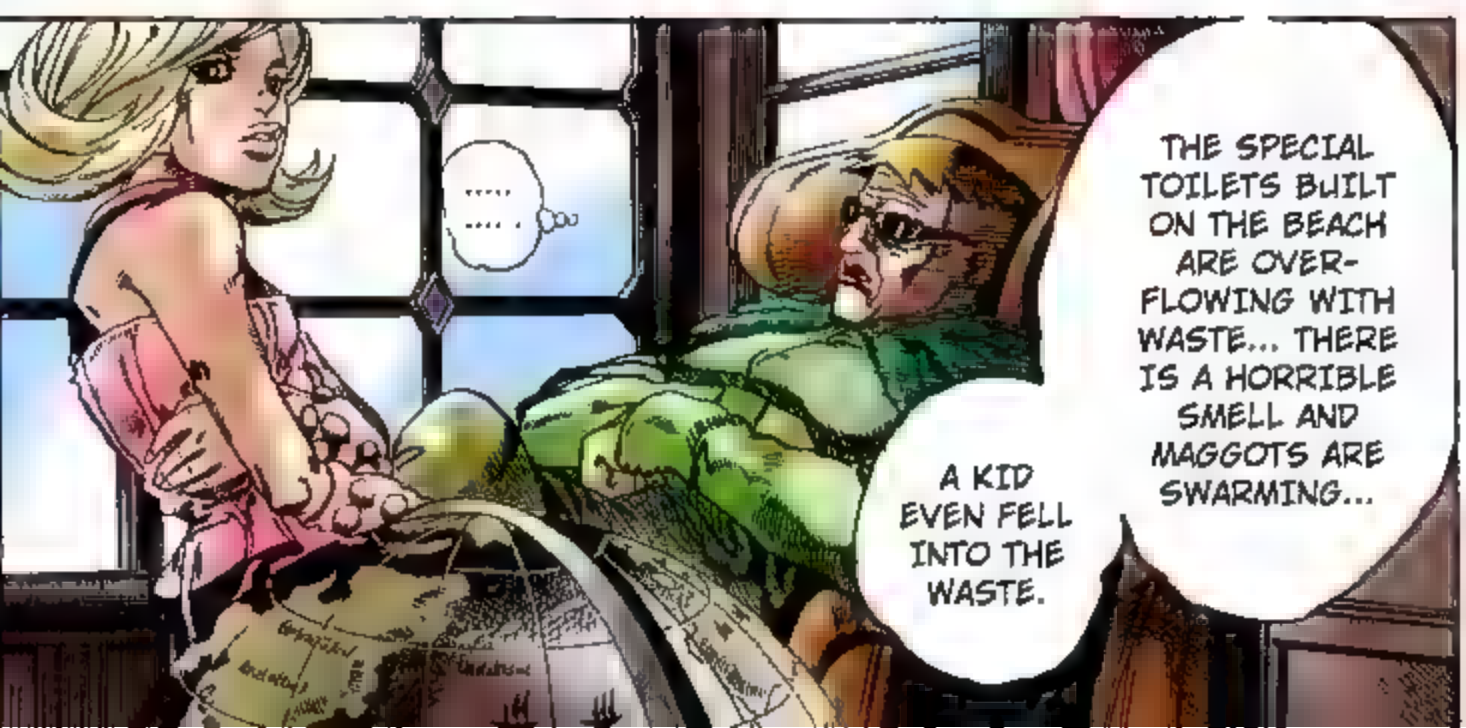
THIS GUY WAS ALONE, AND HE'S NOT AN 'ENEMY'.
TAKE IT EASY...
HE DIDN'T COME HERE LOOKING FOR GOLD MINES, OR TO STEAL ANYTHING.
YOU NEVER SAID THE WHITE MAN WAS SO CLOSE TO US!
THIS WAS DONE BY A WHITE MAN?
HE'S BEEN JUMPING HERE.
HE'S BEEN RUNNING
I CAN TELL BY THE TRACKS . .
WE ALSO SECLUDE OURSELVES TO THE MOUNTAINS TO HONE OUR HUNTING SKILLS, DON'T WE?
RUNNING THROUGH THIS PLACE, AGAIN AND AGAIN.
LOOK AT THESE TRACKS HERE. THEY'RE INCRE-DIBLE.
HOW WOULD YOU KNOW THAT?!
HE WAS TRAINING HERE, IN THIS WASTELAND.
.....
.....
TRAINING?

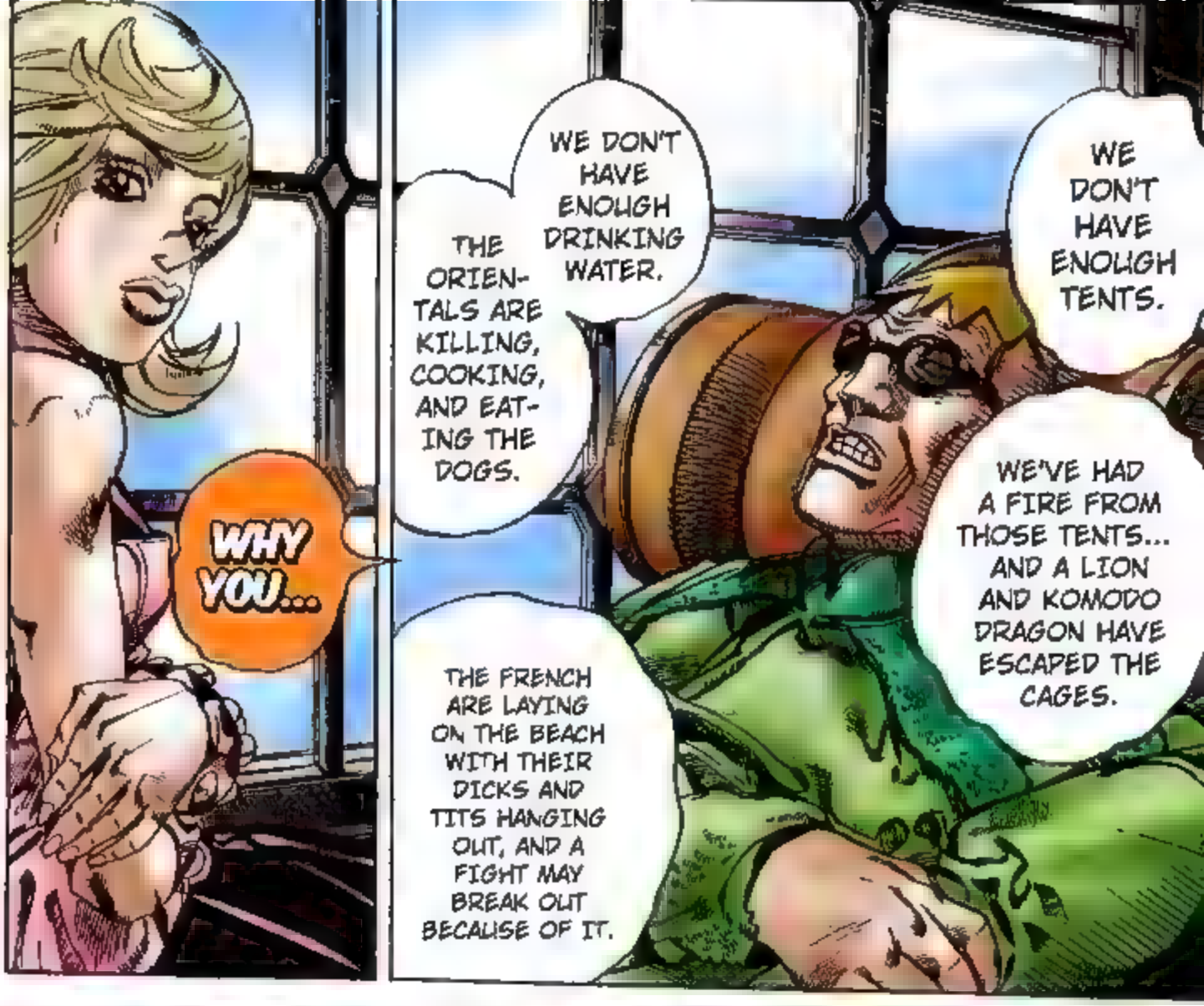
HE REACHED AT LEAST EIGHT METERS IN ONE LEAP... THREE HORSES WORTH!
AMA-ZING
I WON'T BE COMING BACK TO THE VILLAGE...
BIG SIS, I... I WANTED TO SAY GOODBYE...
I'M GOING ON A TRIP.
JUST WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME?
I JUST DISCOVERED THAT HE WAS RUNNING WITH SOMETHING IN HIS HAND.
STONE OR IRON... SOMETHING VERY HEAVY.
IS THAT IT? IS THAT WHAT SCRAPED THE HOLES IN THE WALLS?

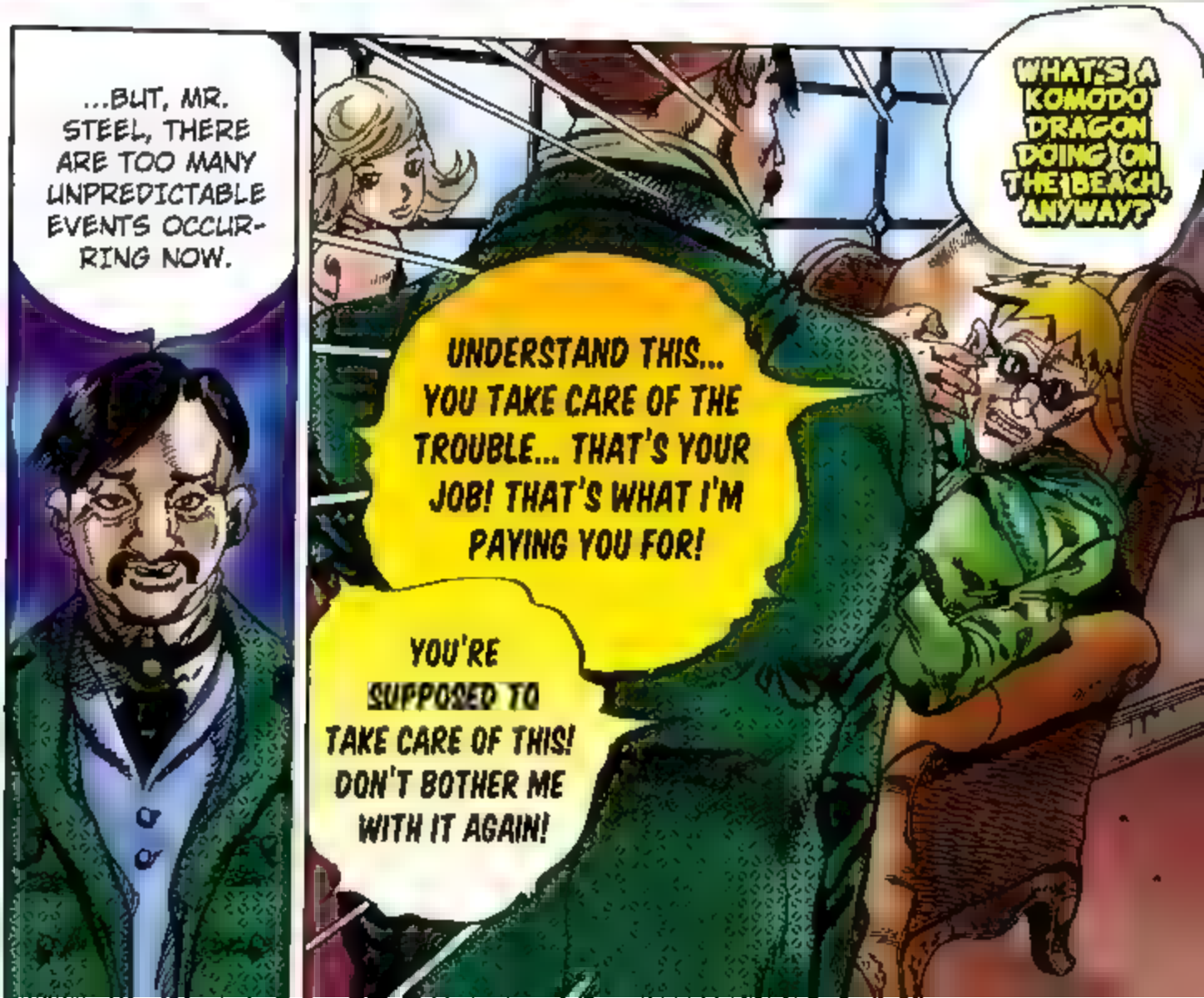
IT SAYS, "'STEEL BALL RUN' RACE OPENING... PRIZE MONEY WILL BE GIVEN TO THE WINNER".
STEEL BALL RUN" RACE
$50,000,000
THIS IS A NEWS-PAPER.
CAN YOU READ IT?
'FIFTY MILLION' DOLLARS!
ENOUGH OF THE WHITE MAN'S MONEY TO BUY THIS WASTELAND!
OUR LAND SINCE OUR ANCESTORS' TIME!

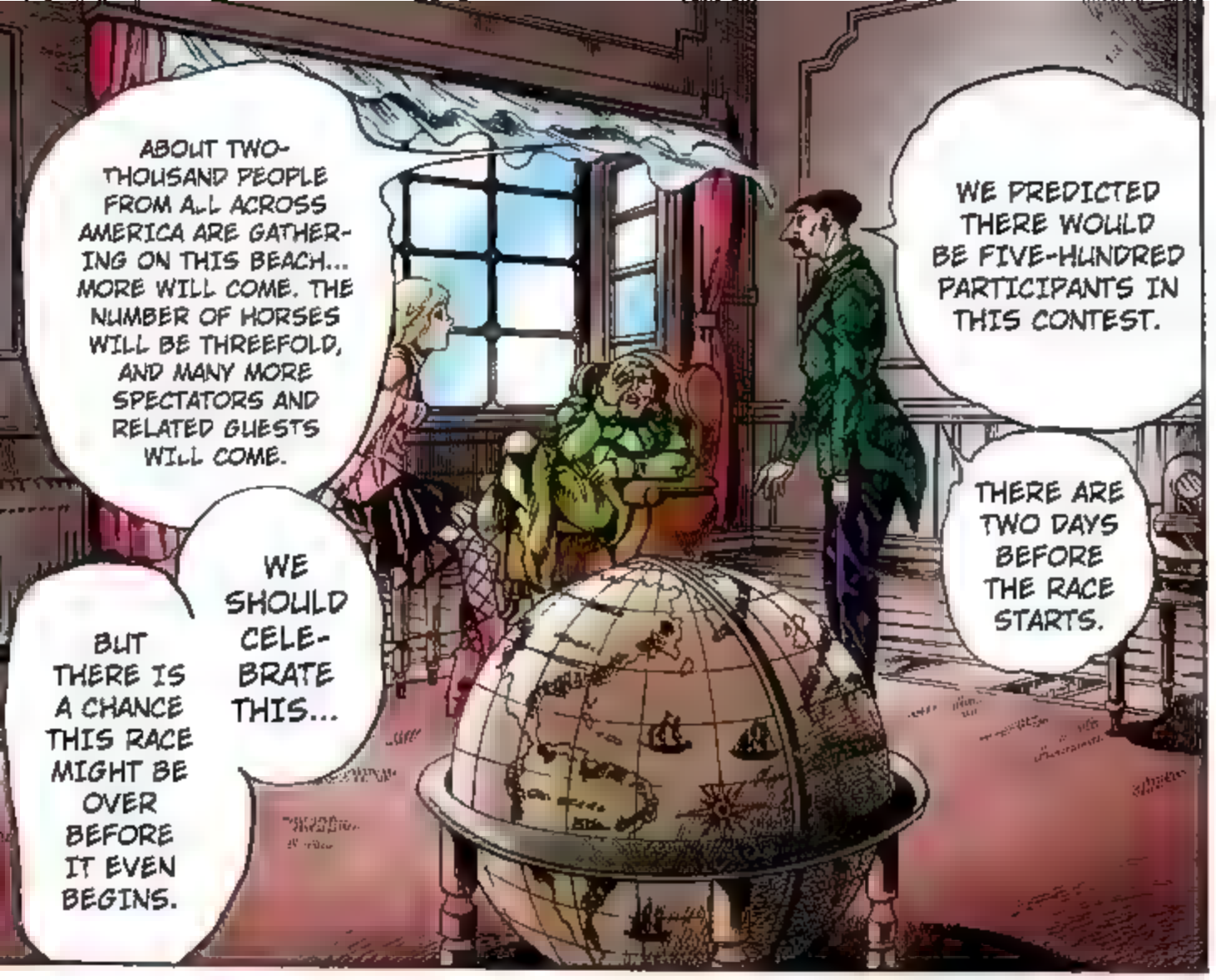

EXCUSE ME.

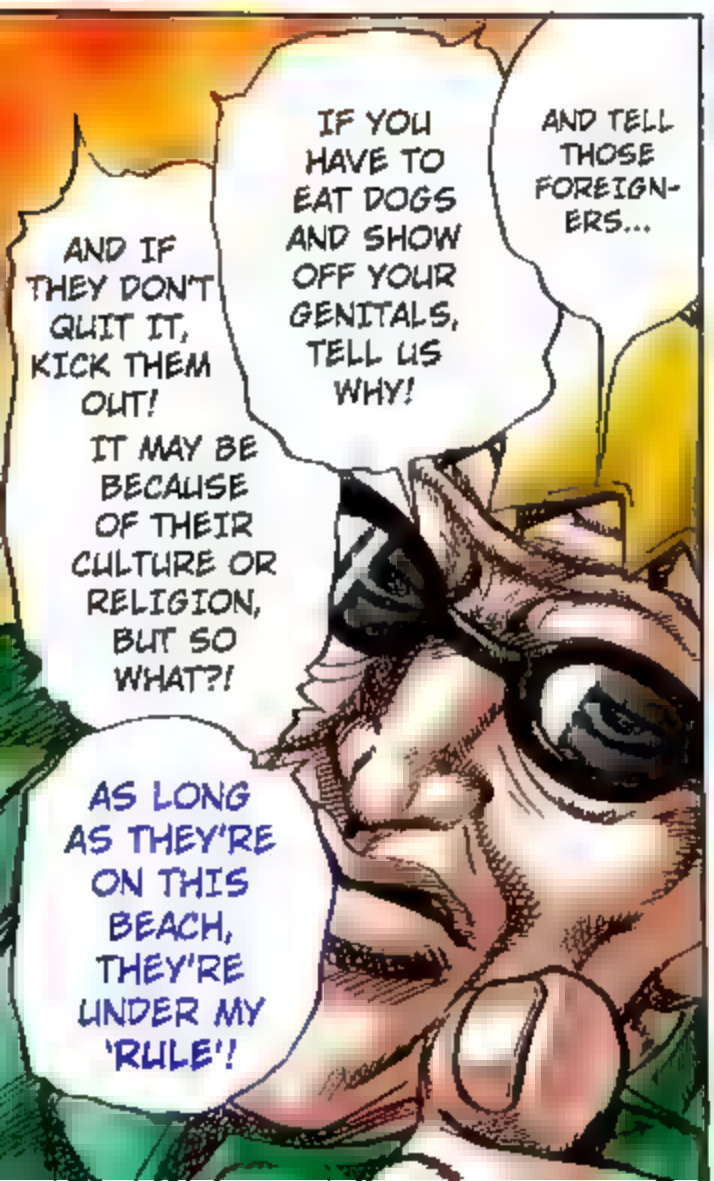

WE'VE HAD COMPLAINTS, MR. STEEL.

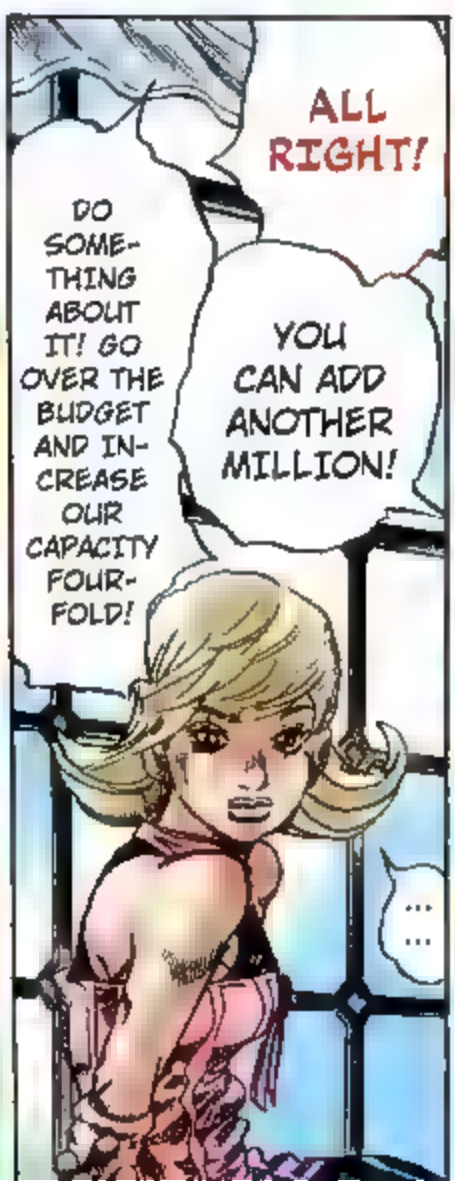

.....
.....
THE SPECIAL TOILETS BUILT ON THE BEACH ARE OVER-FLOWING WITH WASTE... THERE IS A HORRIBLE SMELL AND MAGGOTS ARE SWARMING...
A KID EVEN FELL INTO THE WASTE.


WHY YOU...
THE ORIEN-TALS ARE KILLING, COOKING, AND EAT-ING THE DOGS.
WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH DRINKING WATER.
WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TENTS.
WE'VE HAD A FIRE FROM THOSE TENTS... AND A LION AND KOMODO DRAGON HAVE ESCAPED THE CAGES.
THE FRENCH ARE LAYING ON THE BEACH WITH THEIR DICKS AND TITS HANGING OUT, AND A FIGHT MAY BREAK OUT BECAUSE OF IT.


...BUT, MR. STEEL, THERE ARE TOO MANY UNPREDICTABLE EVENTS OCCUR-RING NOW.
WHAT'S A KOMODO DRAGON DOING ON THE BEACH, ANYWAY?
UNDERSTAND THIS... YOU TAKE CARE OF THE TROUBLE... THAT'S YOUR JOB! THAT'S WHAT I'M PAYING YOU FOR!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO TAKE CARE OF THIS! DON'T BOTHER ME WITH IT AGAIN!

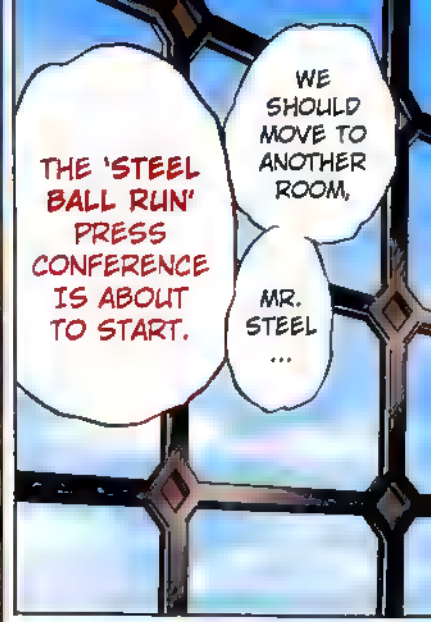

ABOUT TWO-THOUSAND PEOPLE FROM ALL ACROSS AMERICA ARE GATHERING ON THIS BEACH... MORE WILL COME. THE NUMBER OF HORSES WILL BE THREEFOLD, AND MANY MORE SPECTATORS AND RELATED GUESTS WILL COME.
WE PREDICTED THERE WOULD BE FIVE-HUNDRED PARTICIPANTS IN THIS CONTEST.
WE SHOULD CELEBRATE THIS...
BUT THERE IS A CHANCE THIS RACE MIGHT BE OVER BEFORE IT EVEN BEGINS.
THERE ARE TWO DAYS BEFORE THE RACE STARTS.

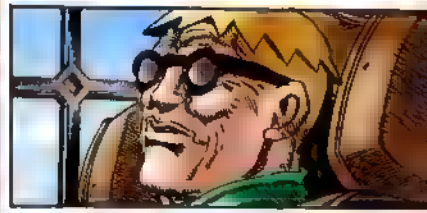

AND IF THEY DON'T QUIT IT, KICK THEM OUT!
IF YOU HAVE TO EAT DOGS AND SHOW OFF YOUR GENITALS, TELL US WHY!
AND TELL THOSE FOREIGNERS...
IT MAY BE BECAUSE OF THEIR CULTURE OR RELIGION, BUT SO WHAT?!
AS LONG AS THEY'RE ON THIS BEACH, THEY'RE UNDER MY 'RULE'!

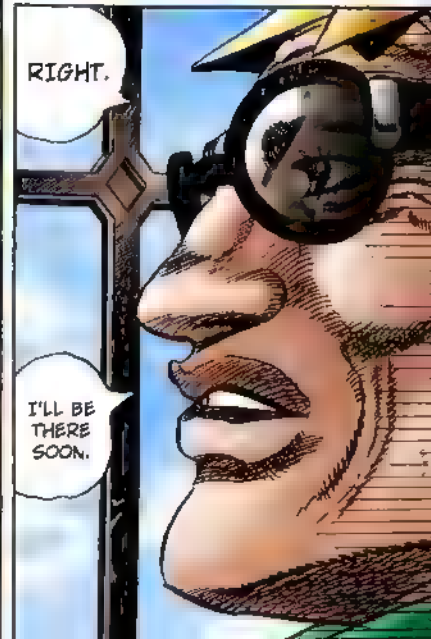

ALL RIGHT!
DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT! GO OVER THE BUDGET AND INCREASE OUR CAPACITY FOURFOLD!
YOU CAN ADD ANOTHER MILLION!
...
...

DAMN.

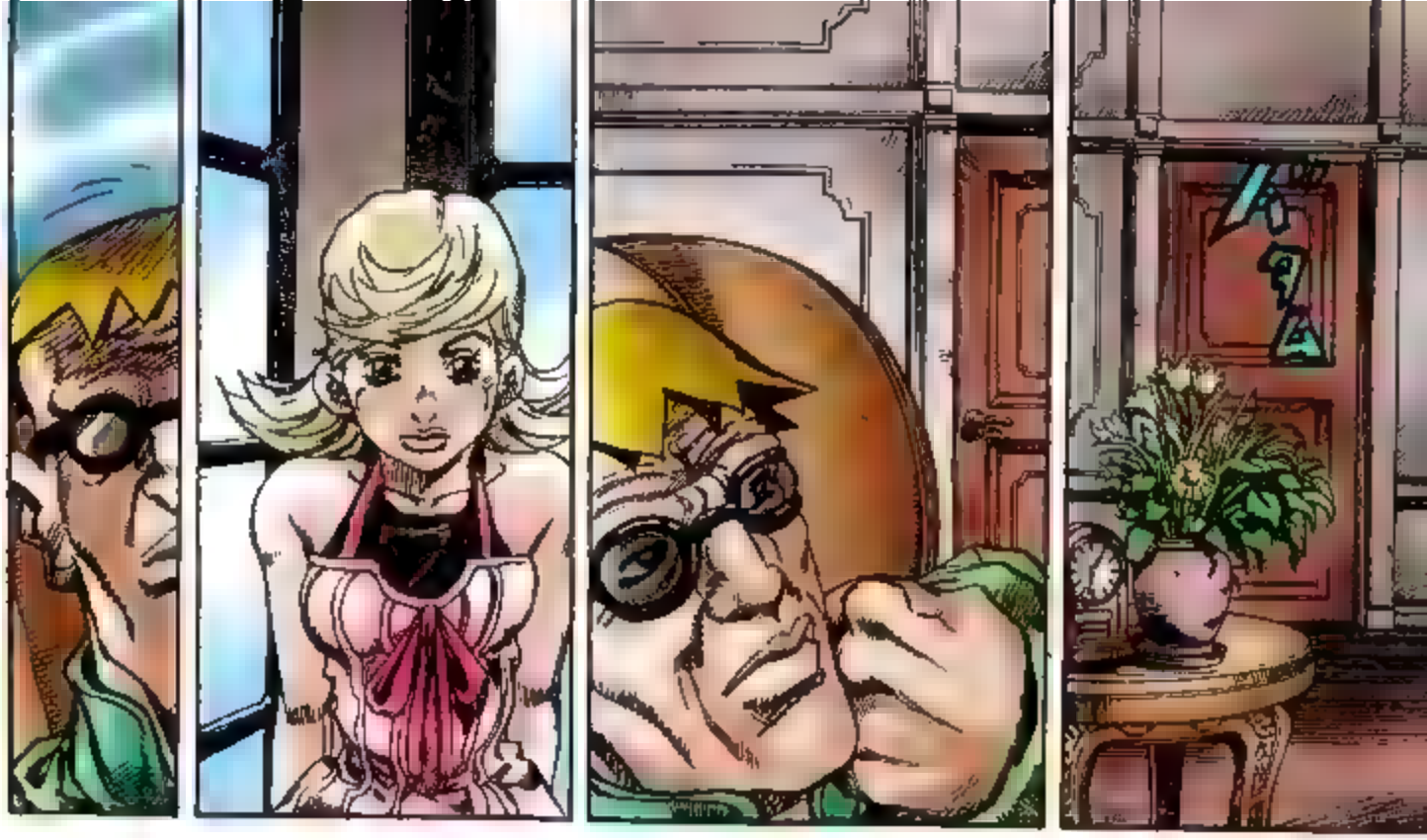
"STEEL BA
RUN" R
SAN DIEGO
1890

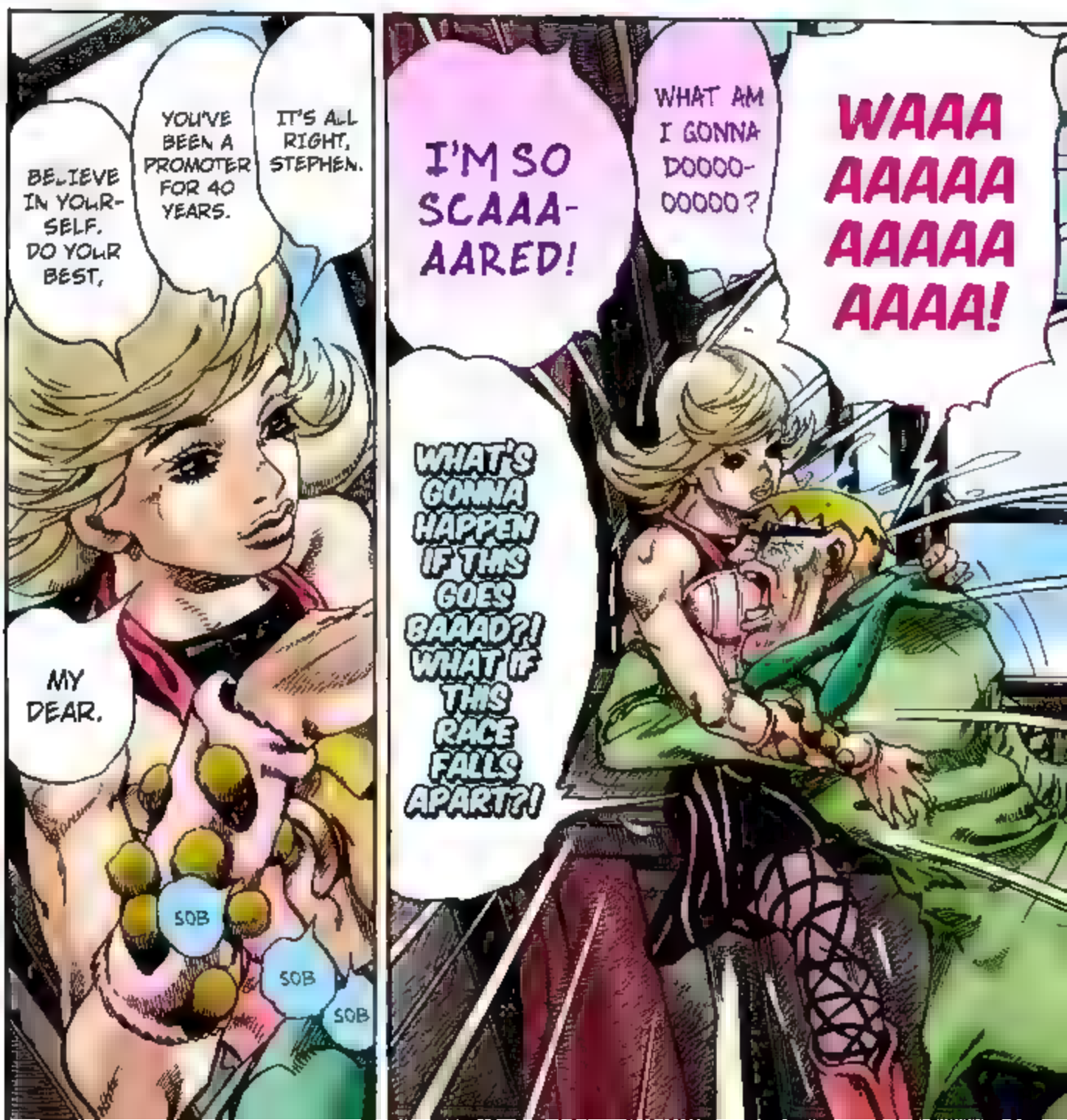

THE 'STEEL BALL RUN' PRESS CONFERENCE IS ABOUT TO START.
WE SHOULD MOVE TO ANOTHER ROOM,
MR. STEEL ...

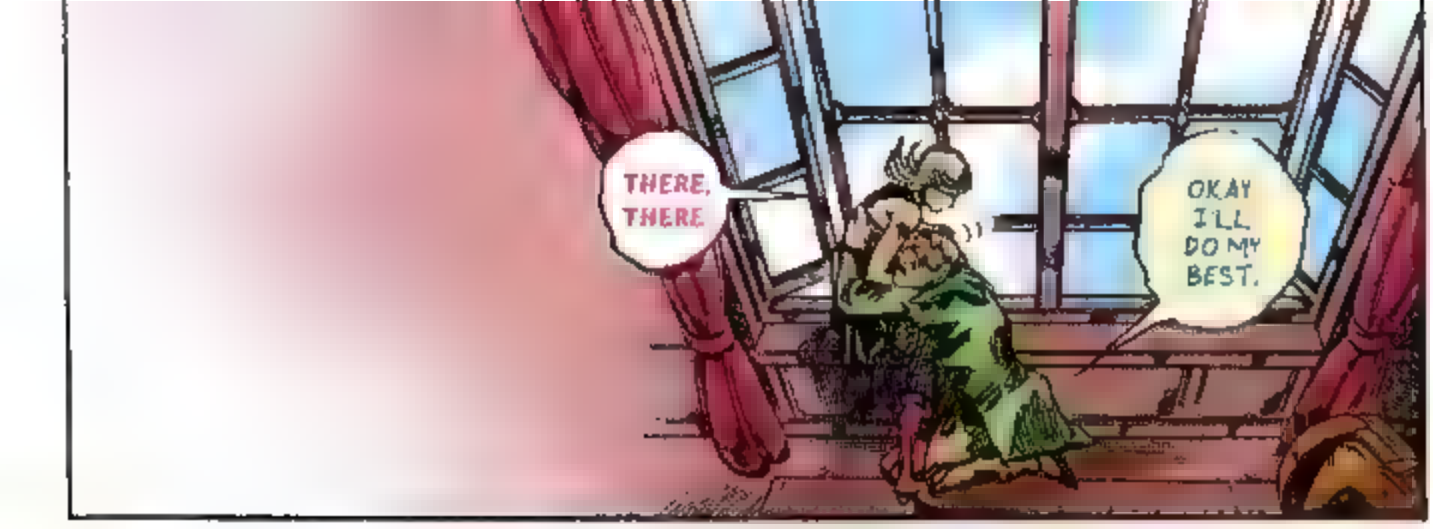



RIGHT.
I'LL BE THERE SOON.

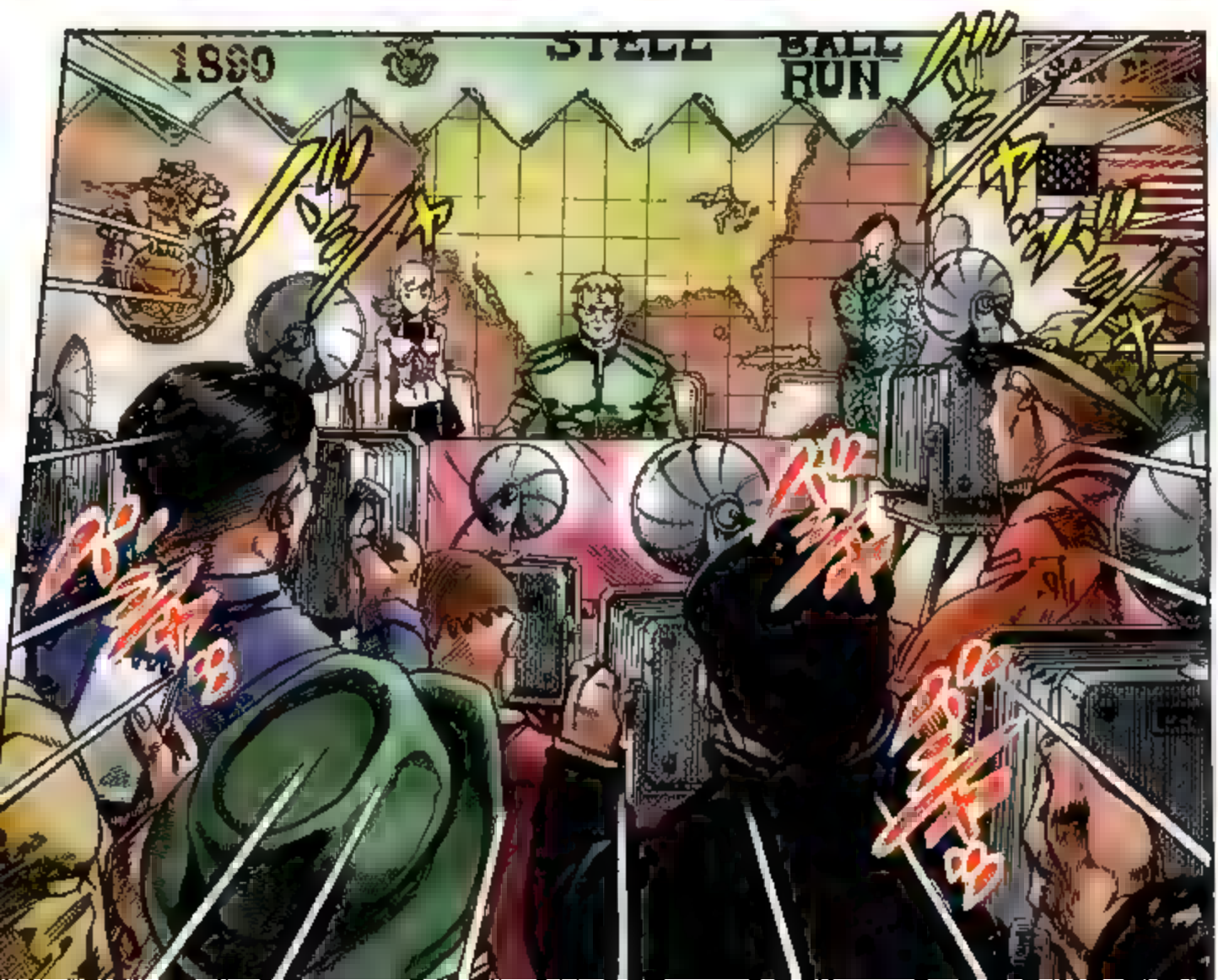
"STEEL BALL RUN" RACE

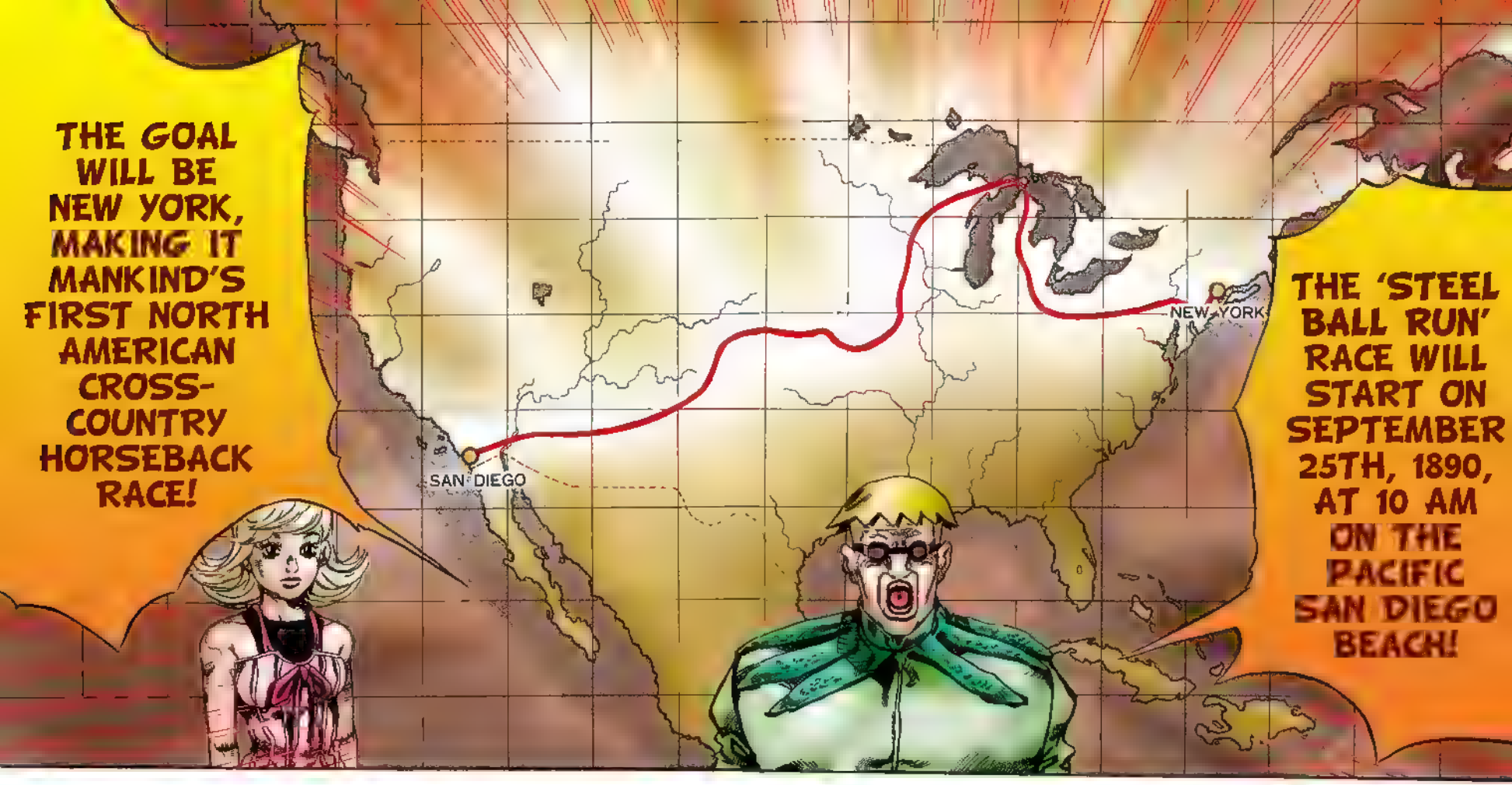



IT'S ALL RIGHT, STEPHEN.
YOU'VE BEEN A PROMOTER FOR 40 YEARS.
BELIEVE IN YOURSELF. DO YOUR BEST,
MY DEAR.
SOB
SOB
SOB
I'M SO SCAAA-AARED!
WHAT AM I GONNA DOOOO-OOOO?
WAAA AAAAA AAAAA AAAA!
WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN IF THIS GOES BAAAD?! WHAT IF THIS RACE FALLS APART?!

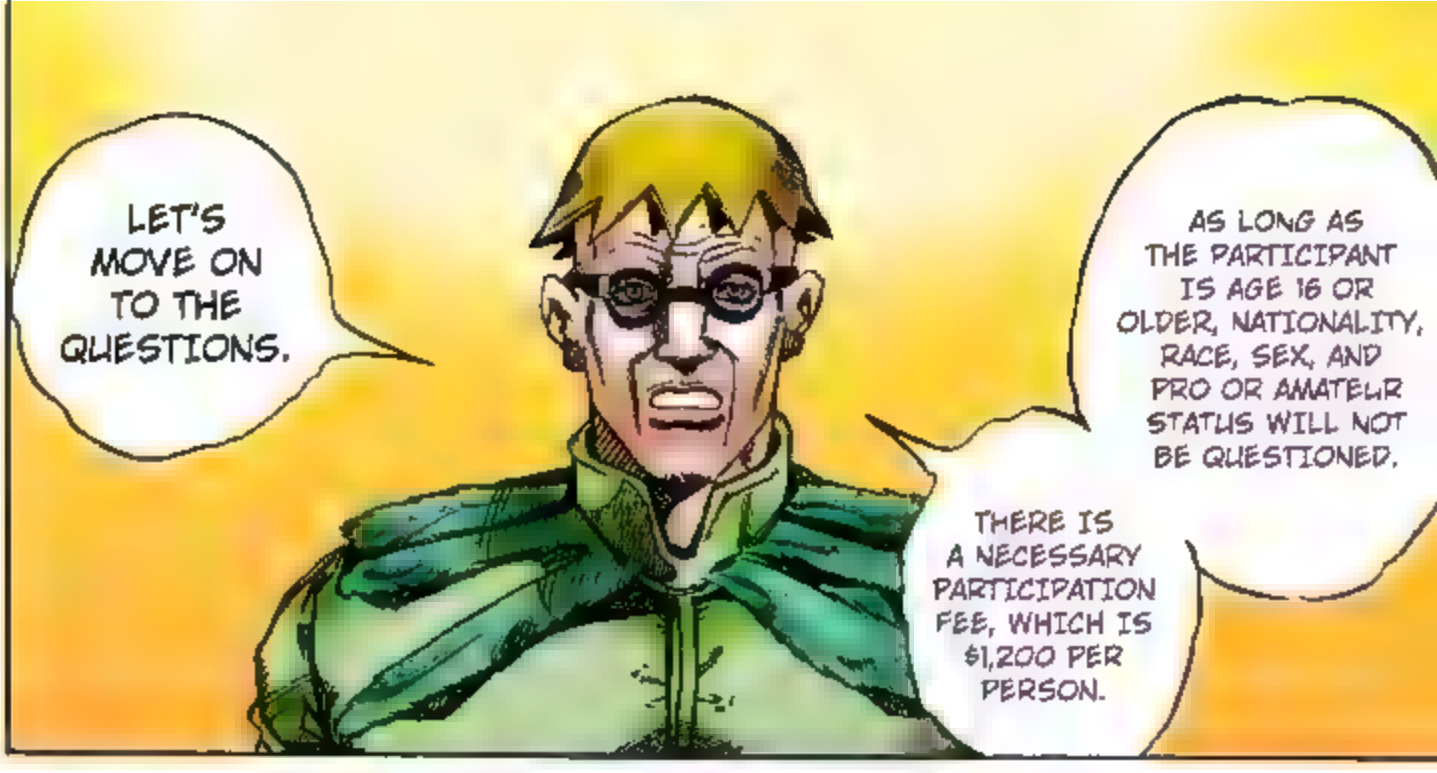

THERE, THERE.
OKAY I'LL DO MY BEST.

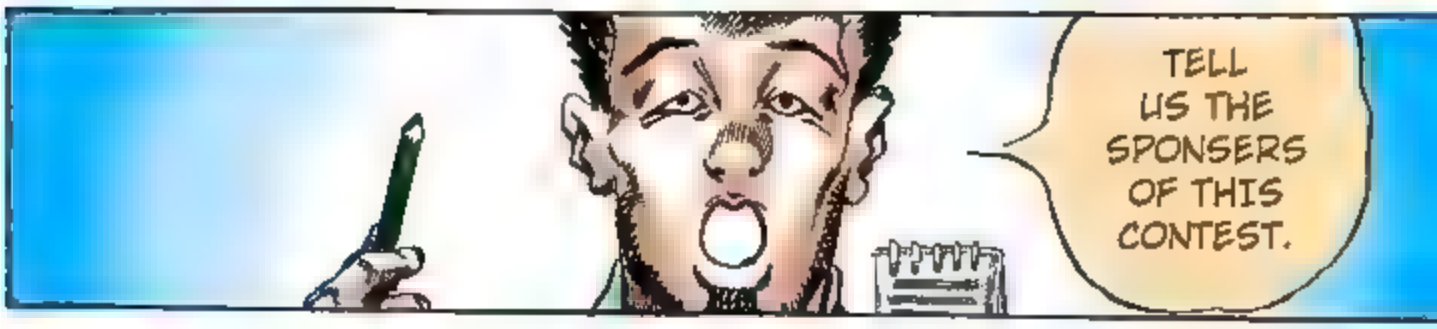
YOU HAVE REPEATEDLY EXPLAINED THIS BEFORE, BUT PLEASE EXPLAIN IT TO THE NEWS READERS AROUND THE WORLD.
WE WILL THEN MOVE ON TO THE Q&A.
ABOUT THE 'STEEL BALL RUN' RACE THAT BEGINS IN TWO DAYS...
MR. STEPHEN STEEL,


1880
STEEL BALL RUN


THE GOAL WILL BE NEW YORK, MAKING IT MANKIND'S FIRST NORTH AMERICAN CROSS-COUNTRY HORSEBACK RACE!
SAN DIEGO
NEW YORK
THE 'STEEL BALL RUN' RACE WILL START ON SEPTEMBER 25TH, 1890, AT 10 AM ON THE PACIFIC SAN DIEGO BEACH!

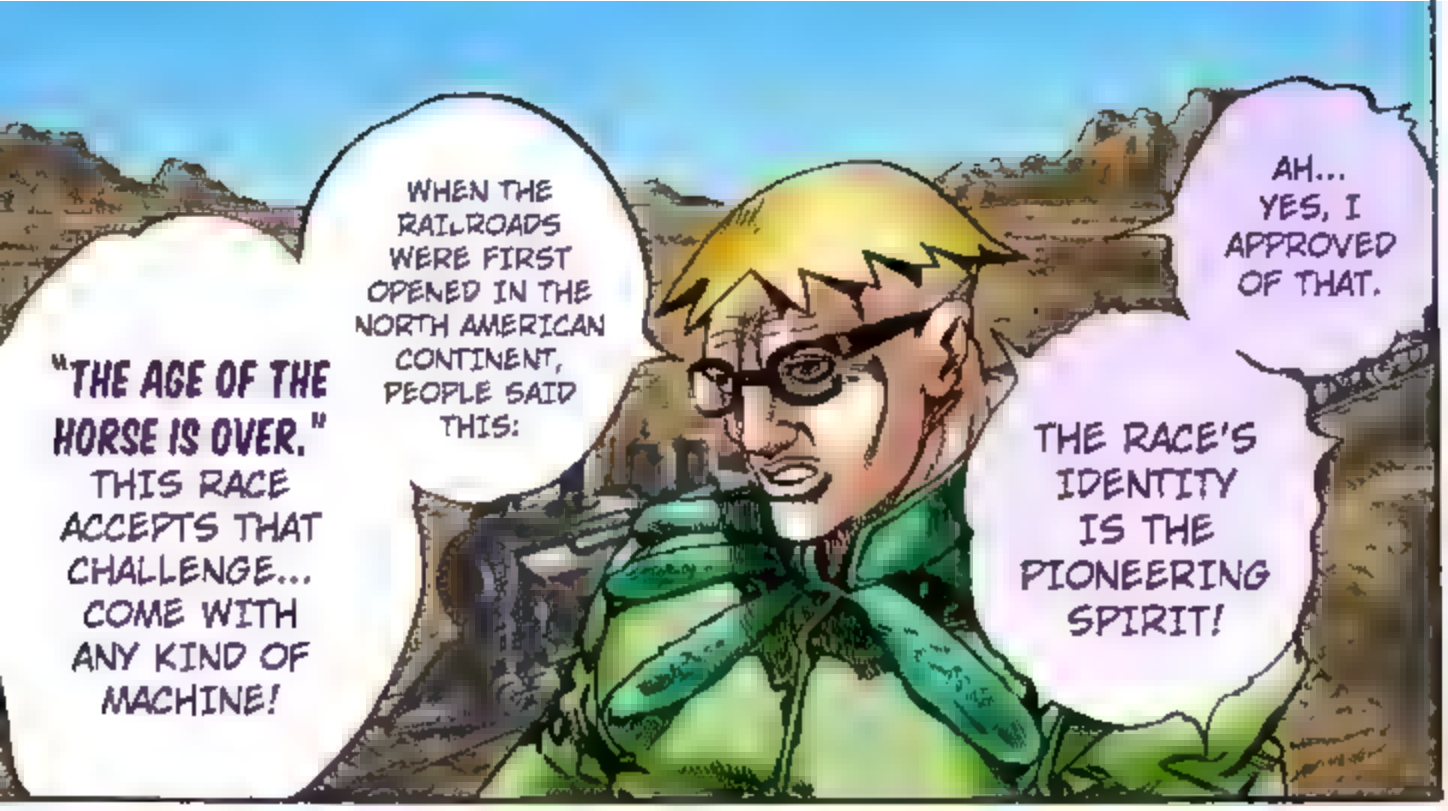
READ THE RULEBOOK FOR MORE DETAILS.
2ND PLACE: $1 MILLION
3RD PLACE: $500,000
4TH PLACE: $250,000
5TH PLACE: $120,000, CONTINUING THROUGH 10TH PLACE, WITH SPECIAL PRIZES PRESENT LIKE THE CHECKPOINT AWARD.
THE CHAMPION WILL RECIEVE FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS, WHICH WILL BE DEPOSITED INTO THE INDIVIDUAL'S EAST AND WEST BANK ACCOUNTS!
FOL-LOWING THIS ROUTE ...
THE DISTANCE IS ROUGHLY 6000KM!


LET'S MOVE ON TO THE QUESTIONS.
AS LONG AS THE PARTICIPANT IS AGE 16 OR OLDER, NATIONALITY, RACE, SEX, AND PRO OR AMATEUR STATUS WILL NOT BE QUESTIONED.
THERE IS A NECESSARY PARTICIPATION FEE, WHICH IS $1,200 PER PERSON.

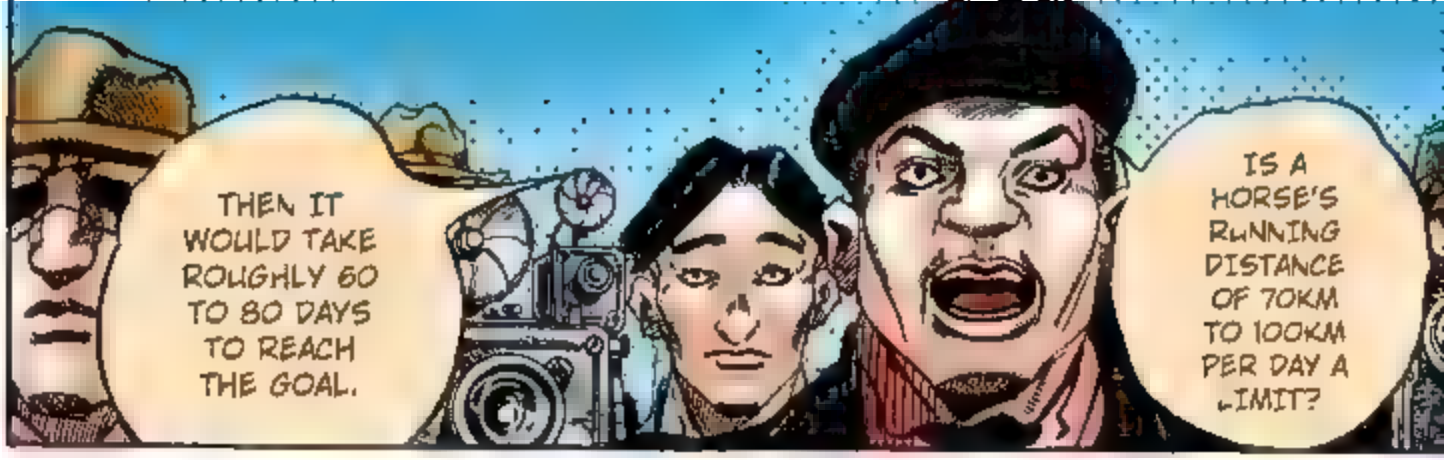

TELL US THE SPONSERS OF THIS CONTEST.

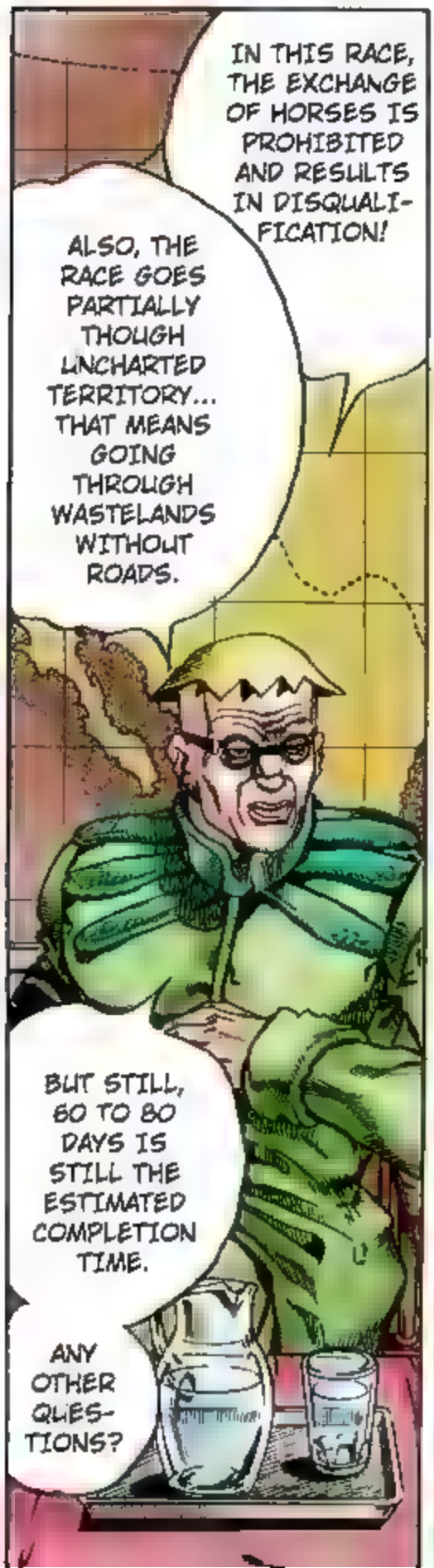
MANY OTHER CORPORATIONS ACROSS AMERICA ARE INTERESTED IN THIS RACE.
BARON ROCKACHUGO OF GERMAN ROYALTY HAS ANNOUNCED PARTICIPATION IN A MACHINE CALLED AN 'AUTOMOBILE'.

FIRST OF ALL, YOUR NEWS COMPANY, EAST & WEST TRIBUNE, HAS EXCLUSIVE COVERAGE OF THIS RACE.
OTHERS INCLUDE THE RESPECTIVE PUBLISHING COMPANIES, HOTEL GROUPS INCLUDING THE SAN DIEGO BEACH HOTEL, BSC MEAT PACKAGING CORPORATION, WINCHESTER FIREARM PRODUCTION,
HORIZONTAL CONTINENTAL RAILROAD CORPORATION, SPEEDWAGON OIL CORP-ORATION.

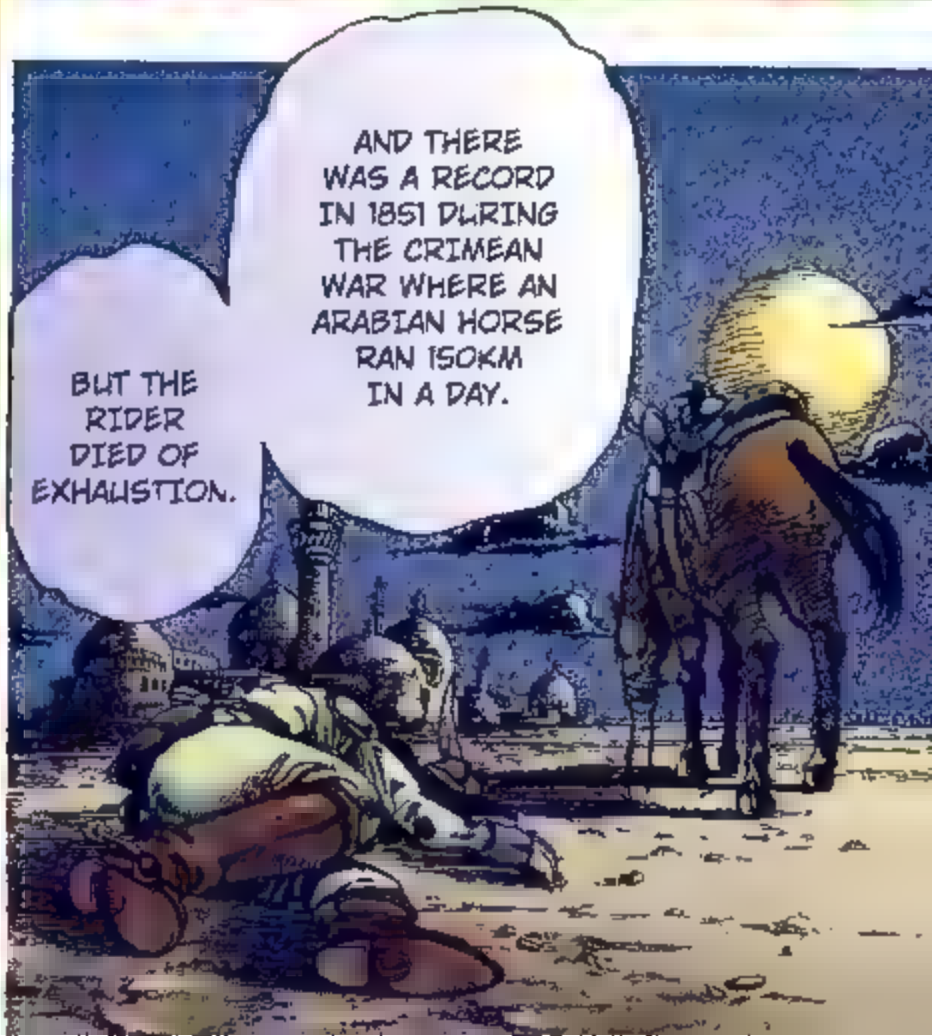

"THE AGE OF THE HORSE IS OVER." THIS RACE ACCEPTS THAT CHALLENGE... COME WITH ANY KIND OF MACHINE!
WHEN THE RAILROADS WERE FIRST OPENED IN THE NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT, PEOPLE SAID THIS:
AH... YES, I APPROVED OF THAT.
THE RACE'S IDENTITY IS THE PIONEERING SPIRIT!

OR WITH ONE HORSE.
WITH ONE MACHINE ...
THIS RACE IS A FIRST IN HISTORY. NOBODY CAN PREDICT ANYTHING THAT COULD HAPPEN.
NO ONE HAS EVER RACED WITHOUT REST, AGAINST COMPETITION, FOR 70KM TO 100KM PER DAY, FOR A TOTAL DISTANCE OF 6000KM!


THEN IT WOULD TAKE ROUGHLY 60 TO 80 DAYS TO REACH THE GOAL.
IS A HORSE'S RUNNING DISTANCE OF 70KM TO 100KM PER DAY A LIMIT?


IN THIS RACE, THE EXCHANGE OF HORSES IS PROHIBITED AND RESULTS IN DISQUALIFICATION!
ALSO, THE RACE GOES PARTIALLY THOUGH UNCHARTED TERRITORY... THAT MEANS GOING THROUGH WASTELANDS WITHOUT ROADS.
BUT STILL, 60 TO 80 DAYS IS STILL THE ESTIMATED COMPLETION TIME.
ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?

THERE WAS A RECORD OF QUARTERHORSES RUNNING A DISTANCE OF 3'164KM BETWEEN MISSOURI AND CALIFORNIA IN TWELVE DAYS, BUT THAT WAS A RELAY THAT USED 400 HORSES INSTEAD OF 1.
LIKE I SAID BEFORE, WE CAN'T PREDICT THAT.

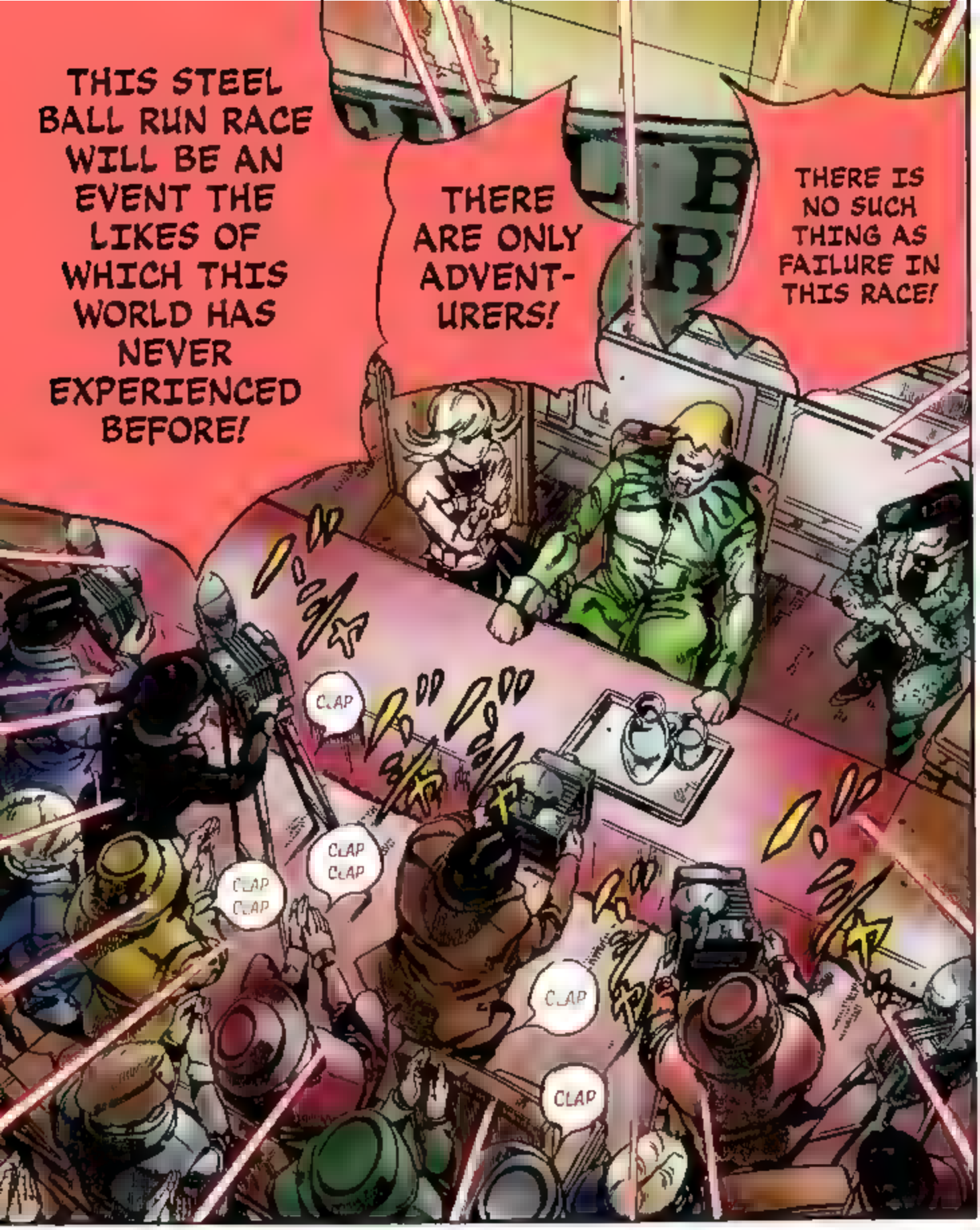

AND THERE WAS A RECORD IN 1851 DURING THE CRIMEAN WAR WHERE AN ARABIAN HORSE RAN 150KM IN A DAY.
BUT THE RIDER DIED OF EXHAUSTION.

THEIR TRAVEL EXPENSES, MEDICAL EXPENSES, HOTEL FEES, AND FOOD EXPENSES...
WE WILL COVER ALL OF THAT.
IF THE PARTICIPANTS RETIRED DURING THE RACE, HOW WOULD THEY GET BACK HOME?
I DON'T BELIEVE SO.
$1,200 IS THE SAME AS A REGULAR WORKER'S MONTHLY SALARY
THERE ARE SOME COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE $1,200 ENTRY FEE BEING A MONEY-MAKING RACKET.
HM ...
WILL YOU BE ALLOWING THE POSSESSION OF WEAPONS?
THIS RACE IS A SPORT.
AS LONG AS IT'S NOT CONSIDERED 'CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR', WE WON'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THAT.
THE ANSWER IS YES! SECURITY DURING THE RACE SHOULD BE PROVIDED BY ONESELF
LIKE THE 2ND AMENDMENT SAYS ABOUT THE 'RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS', WE CAN NOT TAKE THAT AWAY WITH OUR RULES
ONE MIGHT HAVE TO SPEND THE NIGHT IN UNDEVELOPED TERRITORY, WHERE THERE WILL BE POISONOUS SNAKES AND WILD ANIMALS

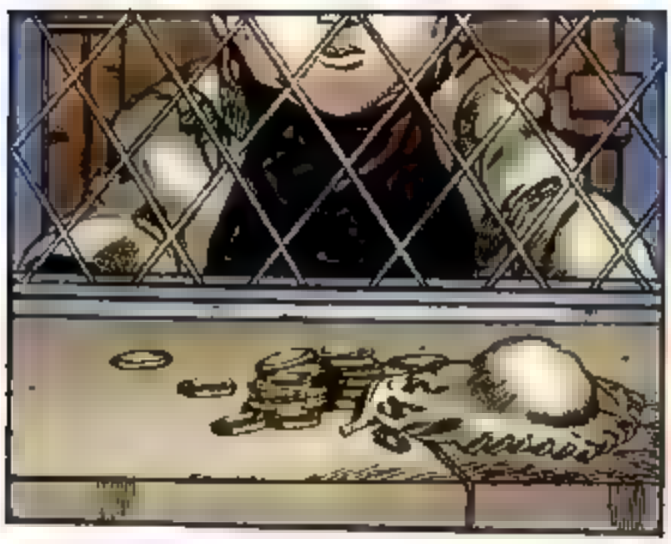
TELL US SOME OF THE CHAMPION CANDIDATES FOR THIS RACE.
THE COWBOY OF WYOMING, MOUNTAIN TIM.
HE ANNUALLY TRAVELS 4000KM THROUGH THE PASTURES WITH 3000 CATTLE.
HE'S QUITE THE LOOKER, TOO.
FROM THE ARAB COUNTRY OF EGYPT, URMD AVDOL IS PRACTICING WITH A CAMEL!
HE CROSSES THE SAHARA DESERT THREE TIMES ANNUALLY!

HE IS THE DESCENDENT OF GENGHIS KHAN OF THE MONGOL NOMADS THAT CONQUERED EURASIA!
FROM THE FAR EAST, THE EQUESTRIAN MASTER, DOT HAN!
DIEGO BRANDO, COMMONLY KNOWN AS DIO!
AND DESPITE HAVING ORIGINS FROM THE LOW SOCIAL RANKS OF ENGLAND, HE WAS RAISED BY ROYALTY AND BECAME A GENIUS JOCKEY OF THE HORSE RACING WORLD.
WILL HIS GENIUS ON THE TRACKS WORK IN LONG DISTANCE...?

TRUE 'FAILURE' IS...!
FAILURE IS...
LISTEN CLOSELY!
FORGETTING THE PIONEER SPIRIT! AND STAYING FAR AWAY FROM CHALLENGING HARDSHIPS!
BEFORE THE FINISH LINE... IF NO ONE REACHES THE FINISH LINE IN NEW YORK...
THE DISTANCE IS TREMENDOUS..
THEN THE RACE IS A FAILURE! THE SPONSERS WILL BE FURIOUS AND THERE WILL BE A TOTAL LOSS OF TRUST IN THE CONTEST ITSELF! HOW WILL YOU TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THAT?
I MIGHT BE ELIMINATED
THAT WAS A JOKE..
HA HA


THIS STEEL BALL RUN RACE WILL BE AN EVENT THE LIKES OF WHICH THIS WORLD HAS NEVER EXPERIENCED BEFORE!
THERE ARE ONLY ADVENT-URERS!
THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS FAILURE IN THIS RACE!
CLAP
CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

THIS INTER-VIEW IS OVER.
WITH THIS RACE.
THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH
ONE MORE QUESTION IS THE PERSON BEHIND YOU YOUR WIFE?
I'VE HEARD SHE'S 14



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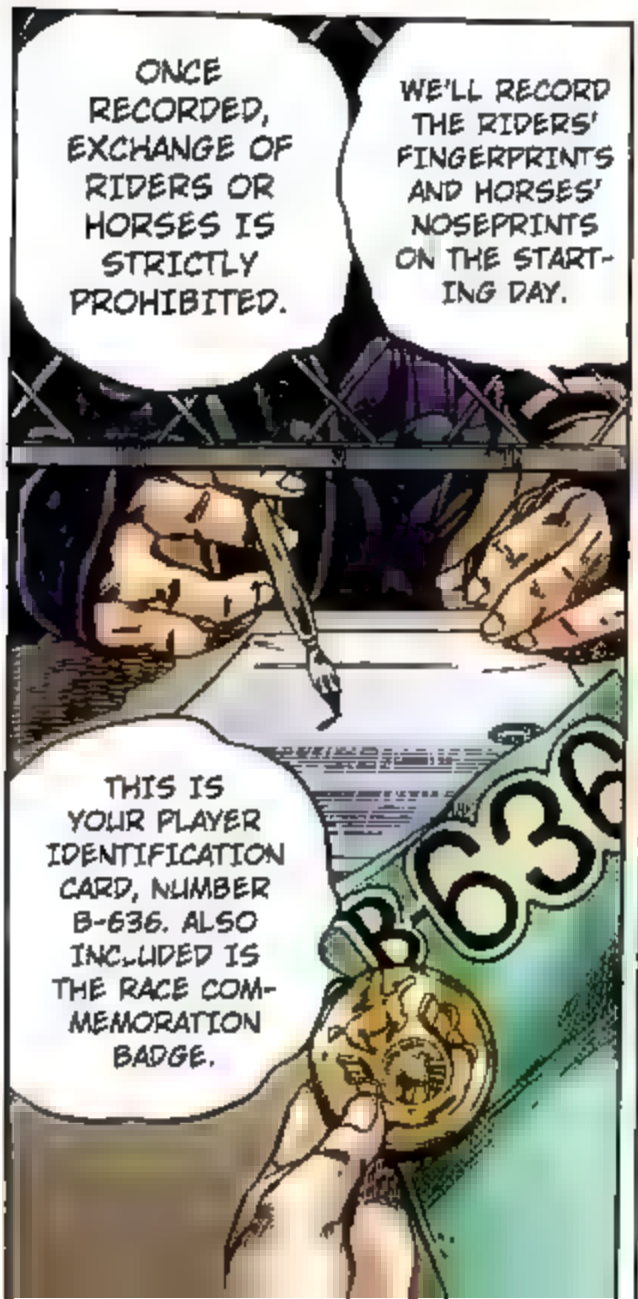
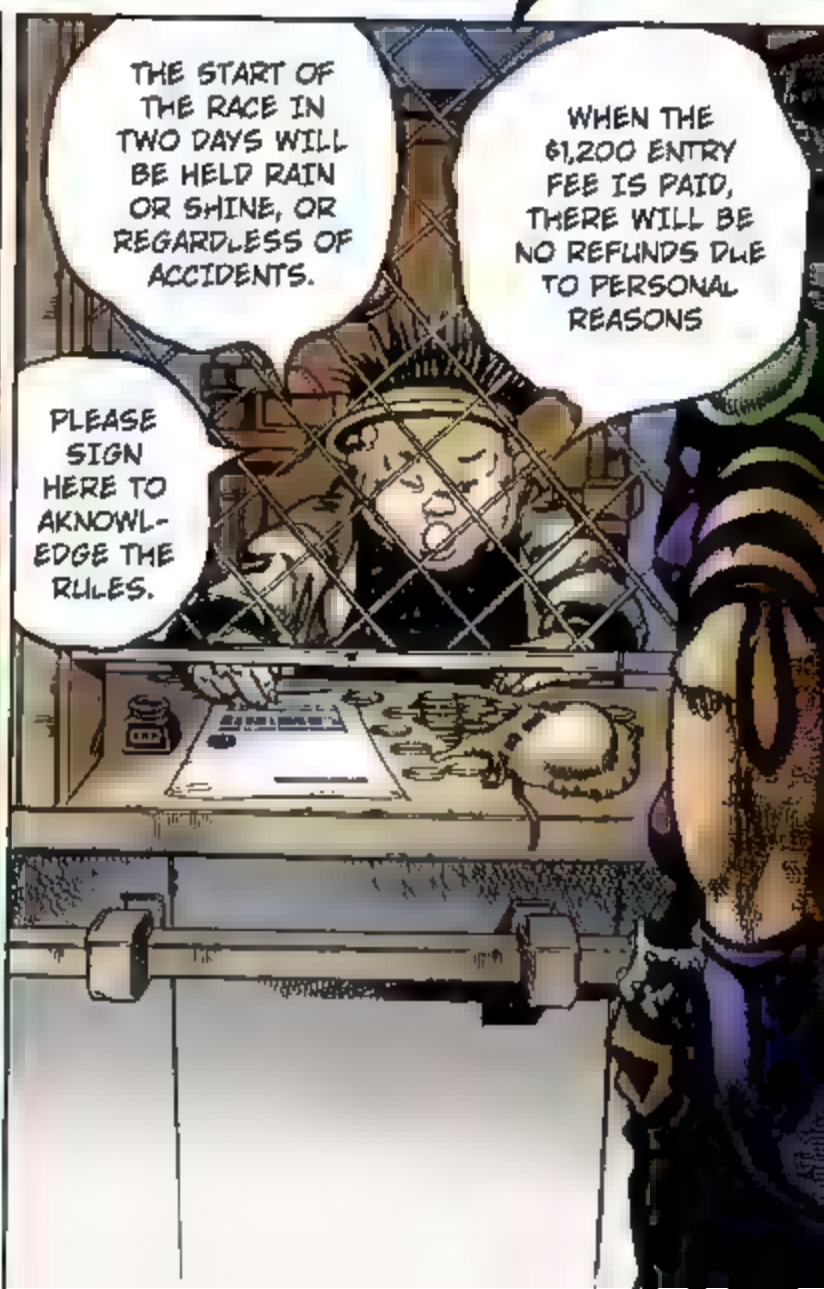

ONCE RECORDED, EXCHANGE OF RIDERS OR HORSES IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.
WE'LL RECORD THE RIDERS' FINGERPRINTS AND HORSES' NOSEPRINTS ON THE STARTING DAY.
THIS IS YOUR PLAYER IDENTIFICATION CARD, NUMBER B-636. ALSO INCLUDED IS THE RACE COMMEMORATION BADGE.
B-636


THE START OF THE RACE IN TWO DAYS WILL BE HELD RAIN OR SHINE, OR REGARDLESS OF ACCIDENTS.
WHEN THE $1,200 ENTRY FEE IS PAID, THERE WILL BE NO REFUNDS DUE TO PERSONAL REASONS
PLEASE SIGN HERE TO AKNOWLEDGE THE RULES.

GYRO ZEPPEL
GYRO ZEPPELI

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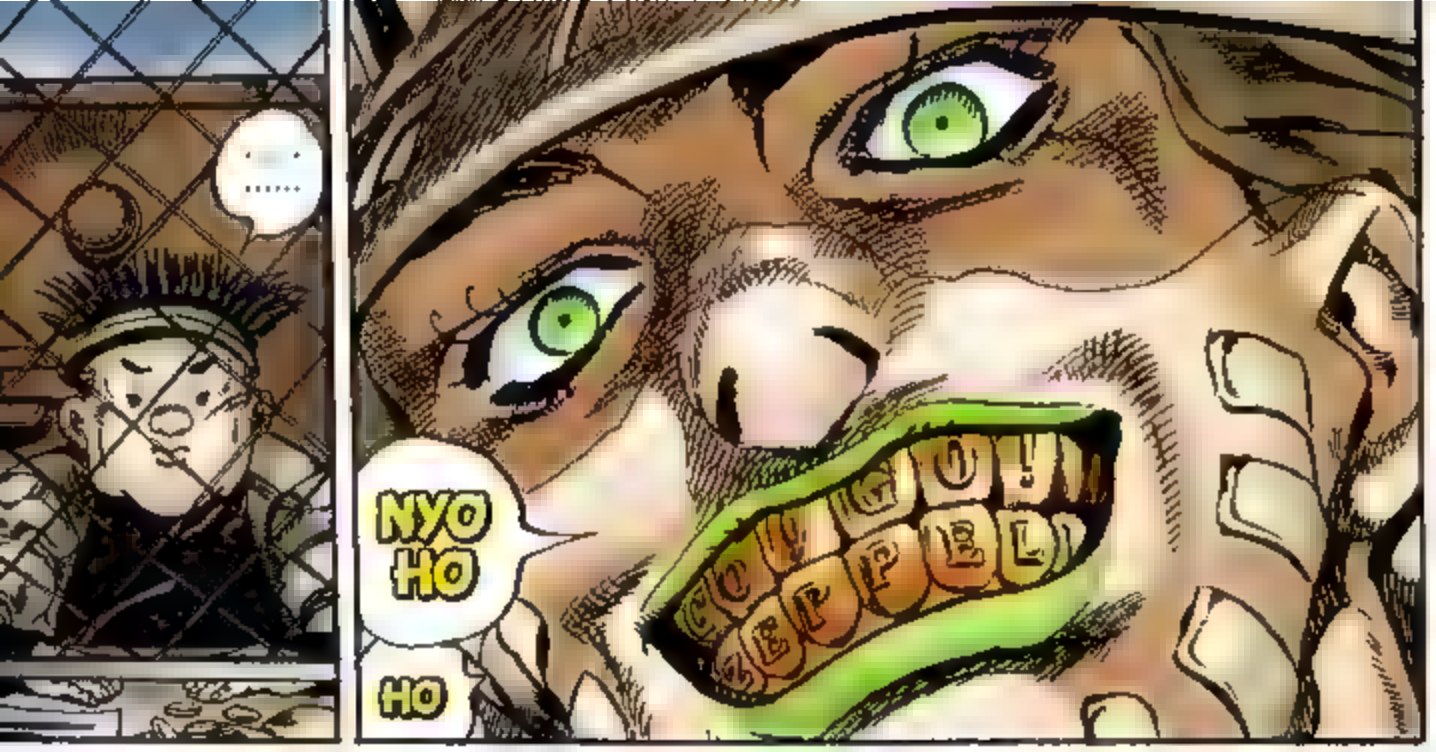
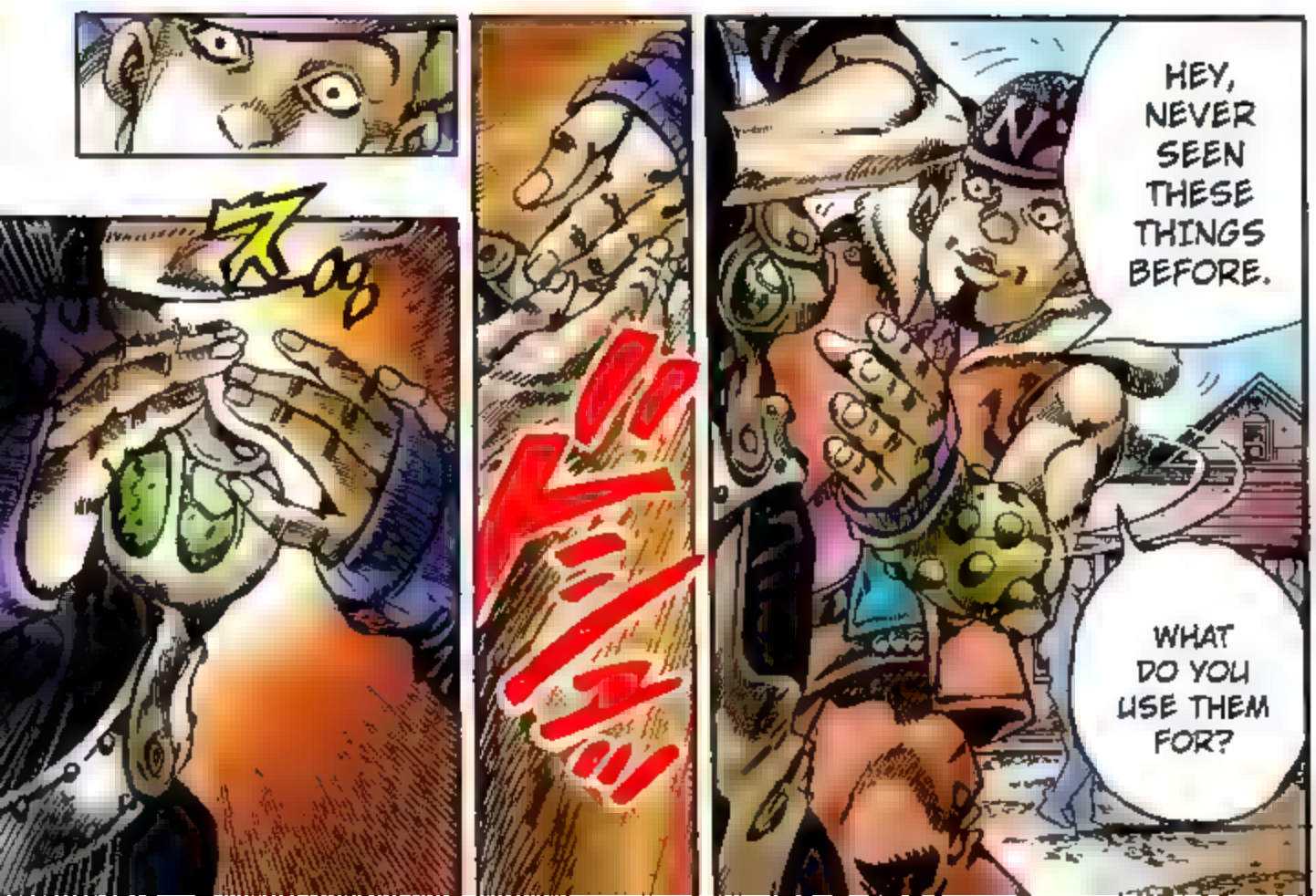
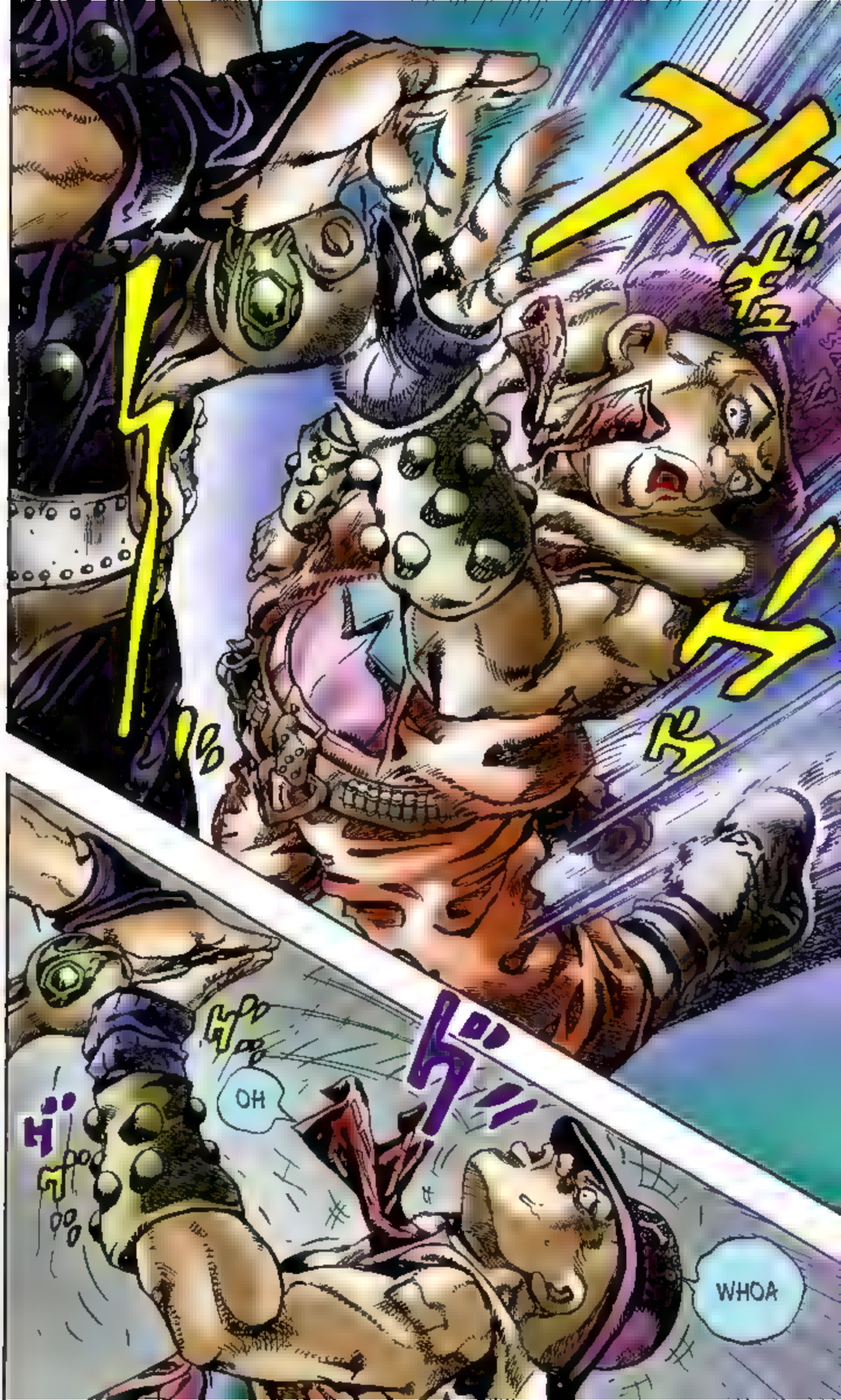

NYO HO
HO
GOGOGOGOGOGOGOGOGO

HO
GOGOGOGOGOGOGOGOGO


HEY, NEVER SEEN THESE THINGS BEFORE.
WHAT DO YOU USE THEM FOR?


OH
WHOA

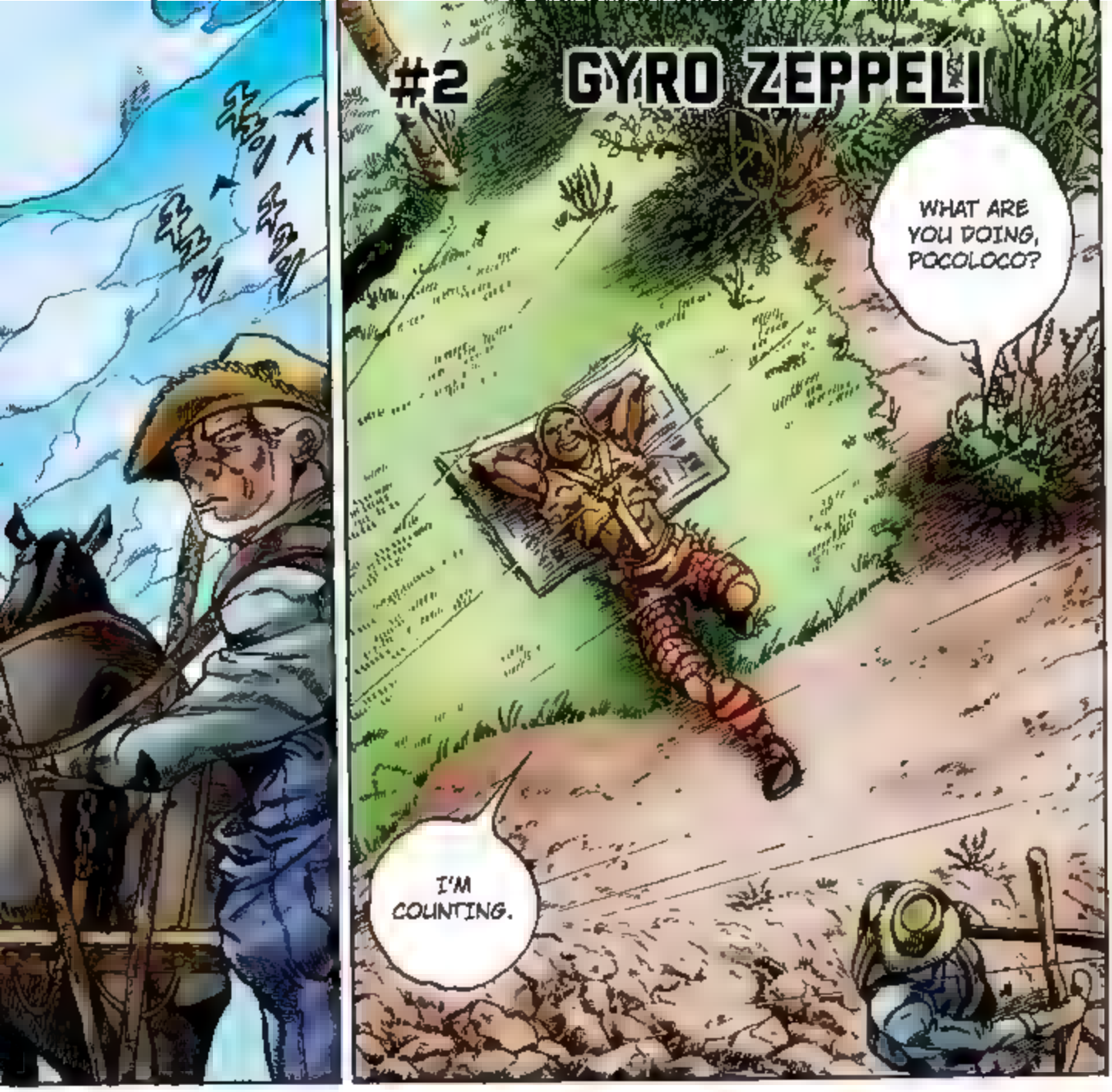
OOOOOH
LEGS... MY LEGS...
WH... WHAT THE...
I WAS JUST CURIOUS... WHY DO YOU HAVE THESE ROUND THINGS IN YOUR GUN BELT?!
WHAT THE HELL?! I WAS JUST MAKING SMALL TALK!
IS THAT SO?...

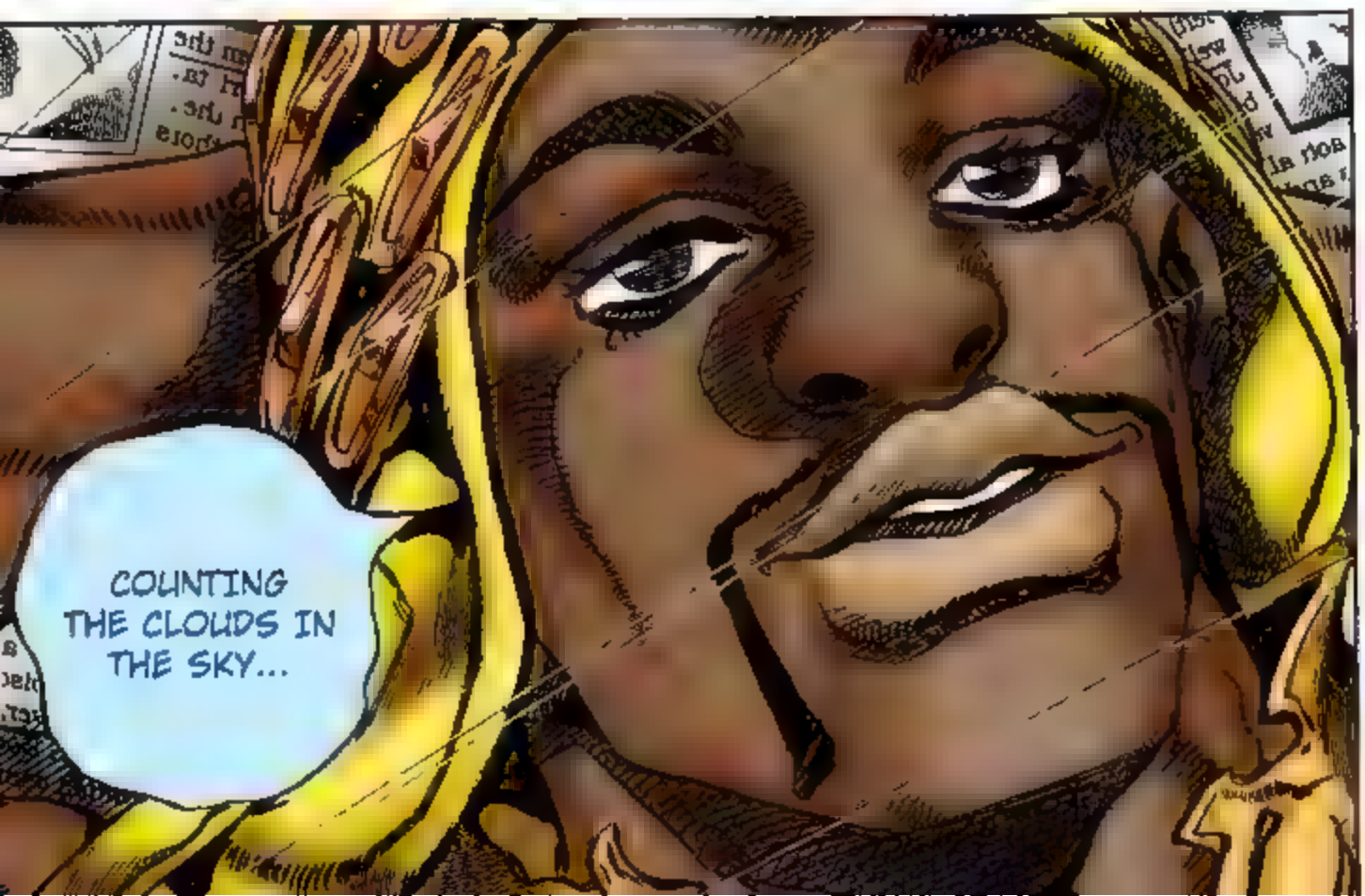
STAND UP...?! I'M NOT BEING HELD DOWN OR ANYTHING...
WHY CAN'T MY... MY LEGS...
$20 SHORT.
AH... THERE IS ONLY $1,180.
WITH THE PARTICIPATION FEE ON THE COUNTER, I'LL BELIEVE YOU.
IF THERE'S NOTHING WRONG
ARE THERE ANY DIS-COUNTS?
COUNT IT UP... CLERK.
SO IT WAS YOU, AFTER ALL...
I HAVEN'T ISSUED A RECIEPT, SO WHAT'S SHORT IS SHORT.
I DID PUT IT THERE...
BUT DIDN'T I JUST PAY? I PUT IT ON THE COUNTER-TOP...
ARE YOU SURE YOU WON'T GIVE A DISCOUNT?
THIS ISN'T A GENERAL STORE!
OF COURSE NOT!
I SEE...

GIVE ME THE COINS YOU SWIPED FROM ME! IF I'M $20 SHORT...
I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO ENTER THE RACE, WOULD I?
NYO HO
HO
I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO ENTER THE RACE... AND WIN, WOULD I?
AAAAA!!

(About numerical values and notation)

As you know, the units of length are feet and inches in America. And since distance is also measured in Miles and Yards, it's hard for us Japanese to get a feel for it in an instant. Thus, in Steel Ball Run, all units of measurement are in Metric for the Japanese readers to easily understand, and weight is shown in Kilograms instead of pounds and ounces. Money is shown in Dollars, but its monetary value is shown in modern standards. The reason for this is that payment for a full day's work in 1890 could have been $1, thus we wouldn't be sure if $10,000 is a lot of money or not. Therefore, $50,000,000 is about ¥5,000,000,000 in modern Japan.

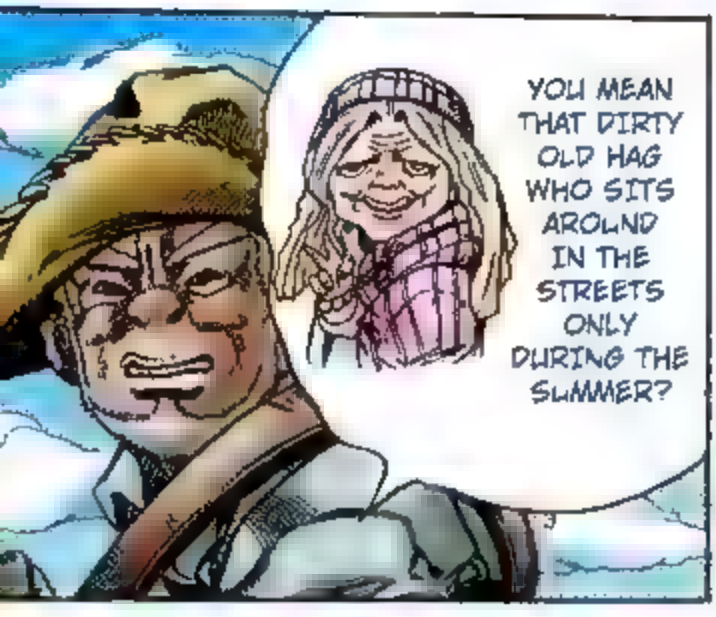

#2 GYRO ZEPPELI
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, POCOLOCO?
I'M COUNTING.

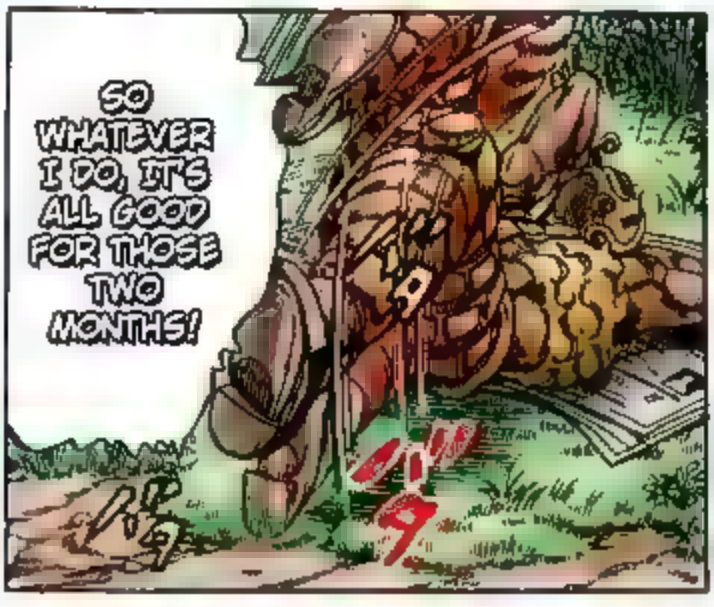

COUNTING THE CLOUDS IN THE SKY...

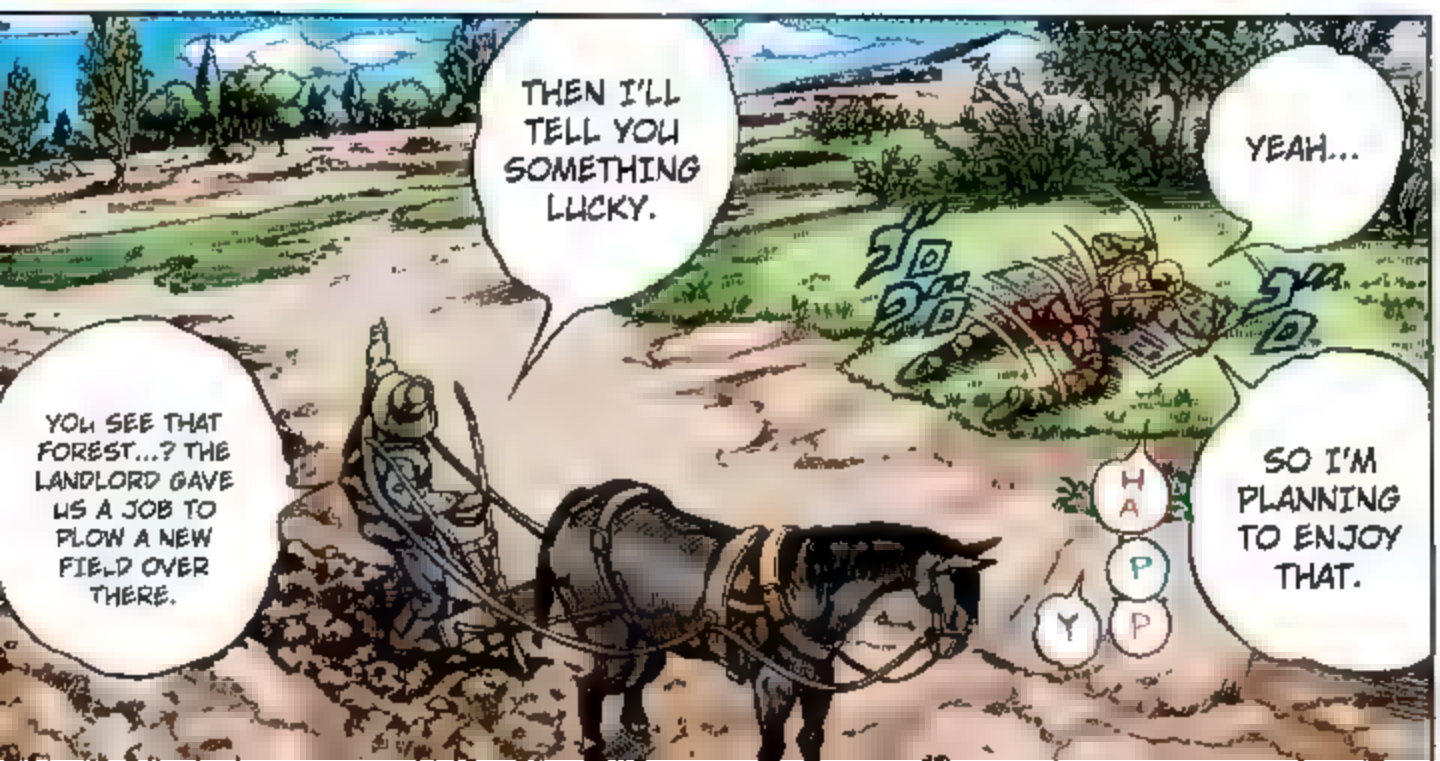
#2 GYRO ZEPPELI

I WANTED TO DO THIS BEFORE...
I WANTED TO SEE HOW MANY CLOUDS I COULD COUNT IN ONE DAY. .
THE LOWEST POINT IN YOUR LIFE IS CALLED 'TENCHU-SATSU'.
I'LL SAY IT AGAIN. 'TENCHU-SATSU'!
I WENT DOWN TO THE CITY.
THREE DAYS AGO.
I LOST AT GAMBLING, SO I ASKED MY GYPSY LAND LADY TO TELL ME MY FORTUNE.
I SHOULD HAVE DONE THAT 'BEFORE' I LOST.
WHY ARE YOU LYING ON YOUR ASS ALL DAY AND NOT WORKING?!
I'M ASKING YOU.
. . . . .
. . . . . .
. . . . . .
YOU KNOW A THING CALLED 'TENCHUSATSU' OLD MAN?

STARTING NEXT MONTH, I'M GOING TO BE AT THE HAPPIEST POINT IN MY LIFE FOR TWO MONTHS! HEE HEE!
BUT LISTEN.
I'M THE OPPOSITE! 'THE OPPOSITE OF THE WORST'!


YOU MEAN THAT DIRTY OLD HAG WHO SITS AROUND IN THE STREETS ONLY DURING THE SUMMER?


SO WHATEVER I DO, IT'S ALL GOOD FOR THOSE TWO MONTHS!


THEN I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING LUCKY.
YEAH...
YOU SEE THAT FOREST...? THE LANDLORD GAVE US A JOB TO PLOW A NEW FIELD OVER THERE.
SO I'M PLANNING TO ENJOY THAT.
H
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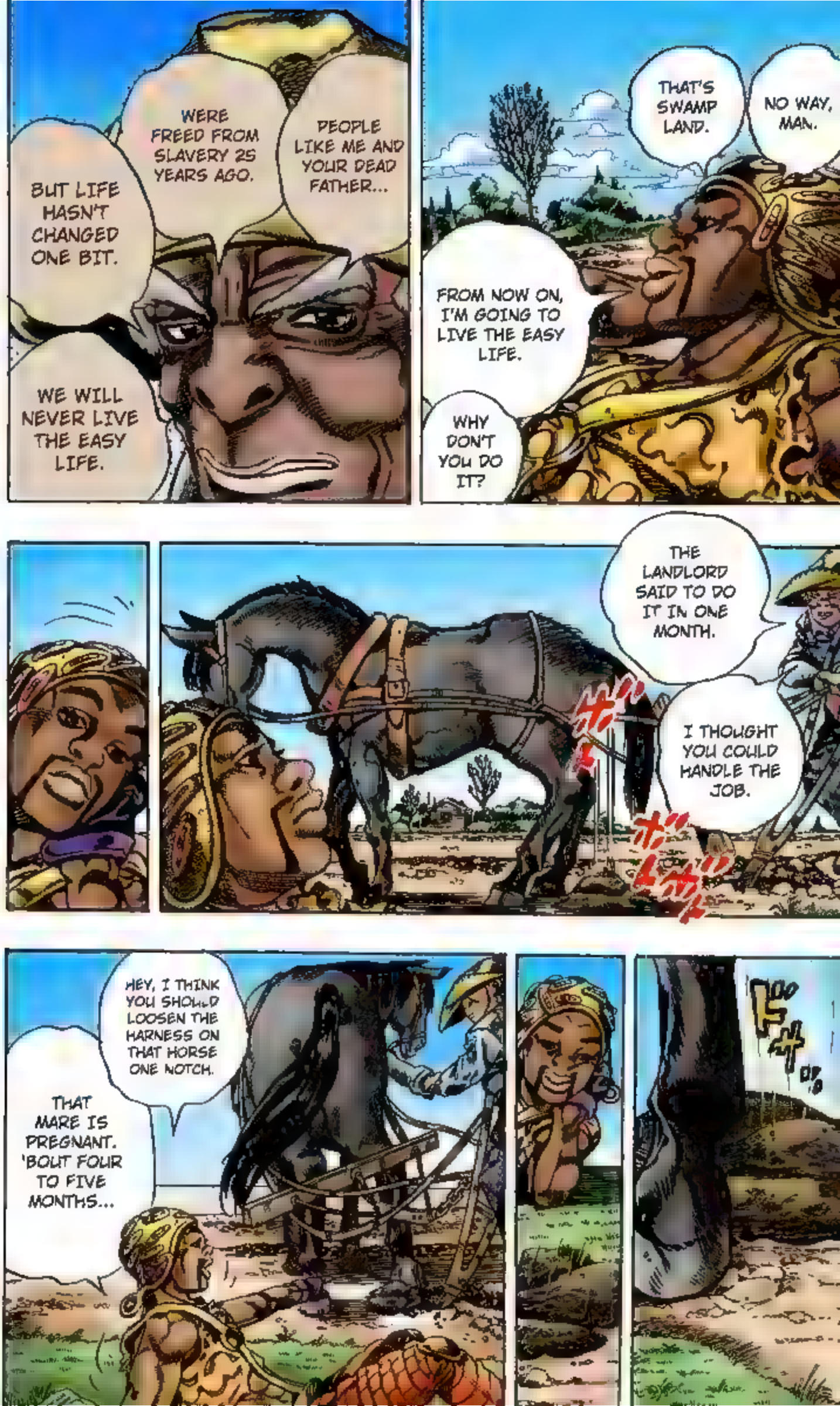
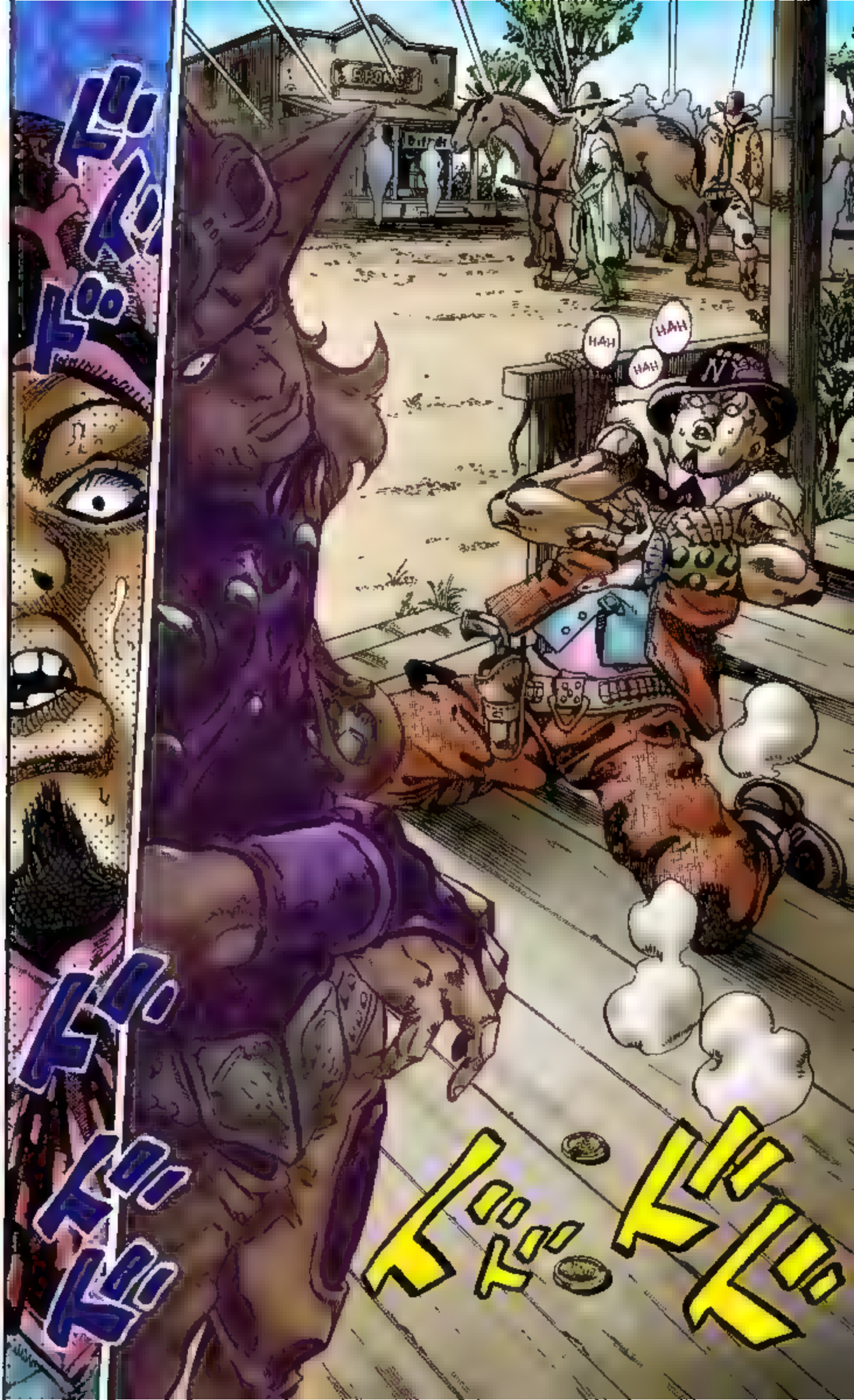
P
Y


BUT LIFE HASN'T CHANGED ONE BIT.
WERE FREED FROM SLAVERY 25 YEARS AGO.
PEOPLE LIKE ME AND YOUR DEAD FATHER...
WE WILL NEVER LIVE THE EASY LIFE.
THAT'S SWAMP LAND.
NO WAY, MAN.
FROM NOW ON, I'M GOING TO LIVE THE EASY LIFE.
WHY DON'T YOU DO IT?
THE LANDLORD SAID TO DO IT IN ONE MONTH.
I THOUGHT YOU COULD HANDLE THE JOB.
HEY, I THINK YOU SHOULD LOOSEN THE HARNESS ON THAT HORSE ONE NOTCH.
THAT MARE IS PREGNANT. 'BOUT FOUR TO FIVE MONTHS...

?
.....
.....
.....
Ho Hum...
TCH!
"YAWN" I'VE LOST COUNT OF THE CLOUDS.
WHICH ONE WAS THE 48TH...?
I'LL JUST START OVER
I EVEN TALKED IT OVER WITH THE LANDLORD TO RAISE OUR PLOWING PAY FROM 1,000 TO 1,200 BUCKS, TOO.

"STEEL BALL RUN" RA
$50,000
Participation Fee:
$1,200 per person
6000 km Horseback Race San Diego to New York
HOW MUCH DID YOU SAY IT WAS?
THAT PAY FOR THE NEW FIELD...
OLD MAN...
"STEEL BALL RUN" RACE!
$50,000,000

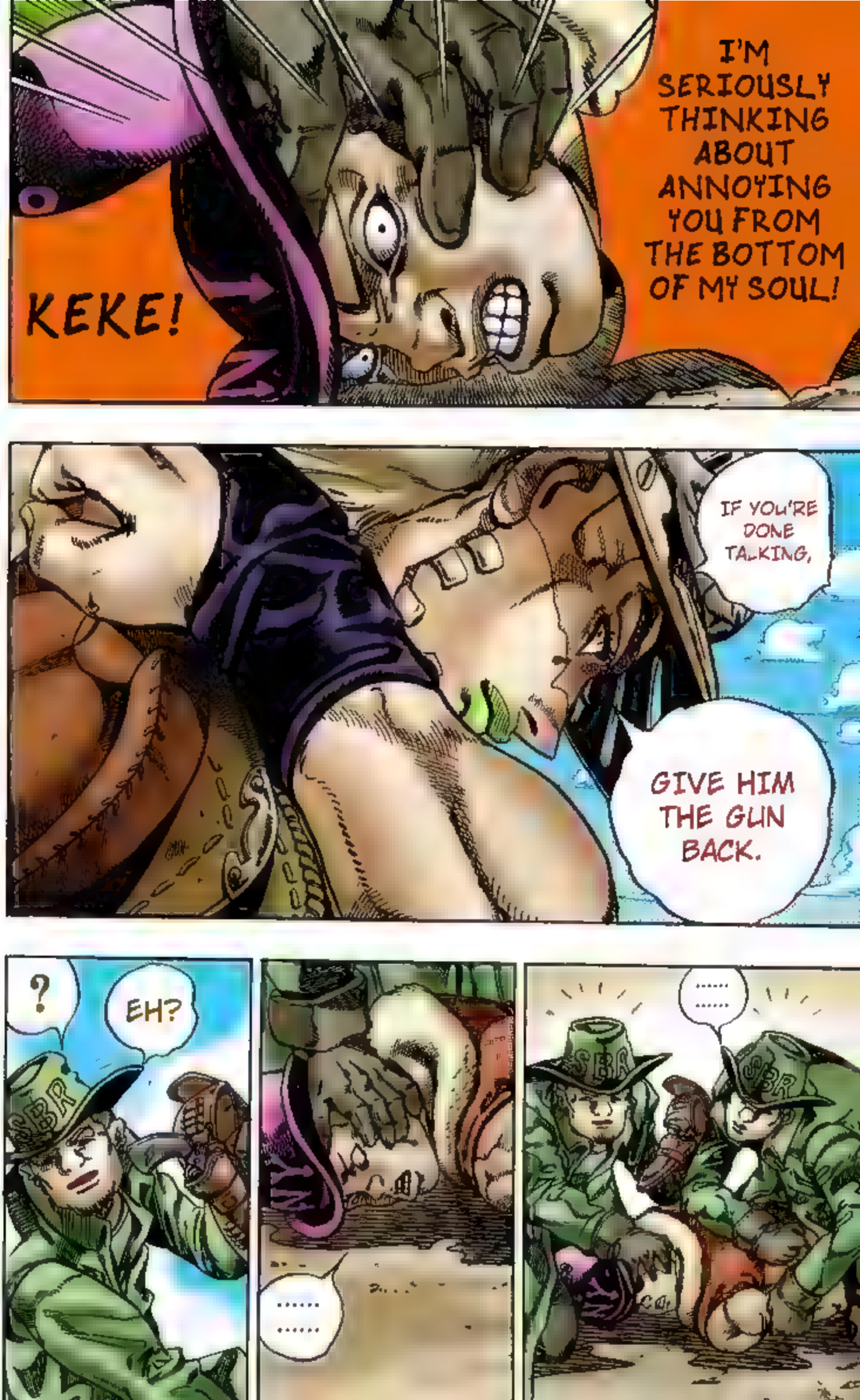

HAH
HAH
HAH
TOO
TOO
TOO
TOO
TOO

HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
C'MON!
I'M CALLING THE SHERIFF RIGHT NOW!
THAT MAN DID STEAL YOUR $20!
UGH
I CAN DEAL WITH THAT LATER... IF YOU COUNTED UP THE MONEY, GIVE ME THE RECIPT.
AND DON'T ADDRESS IT TO 'SIR' EITHER.
AND PUT TODAY'S DATE ON IT, TOO.
NYO HO!

バーアア
SO WHICH TENT WILL I BE IN... UNTIL THE START OF THE RACE IN TWO DAYS?
JUST KILL ME WITH THAT THING!
WEEEEL? GO AHEAD AND DO IT!
HEY, SHUT UP! JUST SHUT UP AND WAIT FOR THE SHERIFF!
THAT DIRTY, ROUND THING BY YOUR SIDE IS YOUR WEAPON?!
IS THAT YOUR WEAPON ?!
TURN AROUND! YOU THINK YOU'RE SO BIG OVER $20?
IT'S NOT OVER, MAN!

AH!
HA! YOU'RE DEAD!

YOU'D BE DEAD NOW!
IF I FELT LIKE IT, HYAHAH!
YOU'RE PERCEPTIVE... BUT SUCH AN EASY KILL!
HYA HAHA HAHA HAHA HAA!
DAMN!
AAGH, WHY, YOU...
HE GOT MY GUN!
I'M GONNA STALK YOU AND BLOCK YOUR WHOLE WAY THROUGH!
I'M GONNA ENTER THE RACE!
STOP IT! JUST SHUT UP, YOU THIEF!
YOU LISTENING TO ME, YOU BASTARD?!
YOU DIDN'T CATCH ME! RIGHT WHEN I TOOK THE CASH FROM YOU!
I WON'T SETTLE IT LIKE THIS.
YOU HUMILIATED ME... I'M GOING TO STALK YOU DOWN...
I'M FASTER THAN YOU!


KEKE!
I'M SERIOUSLY THINKING ABOUT ANNOYING YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY SOUL!
IF YOU'RE DONE TALKING,
GIVE HIM THE GUN BACK.
?
EH?
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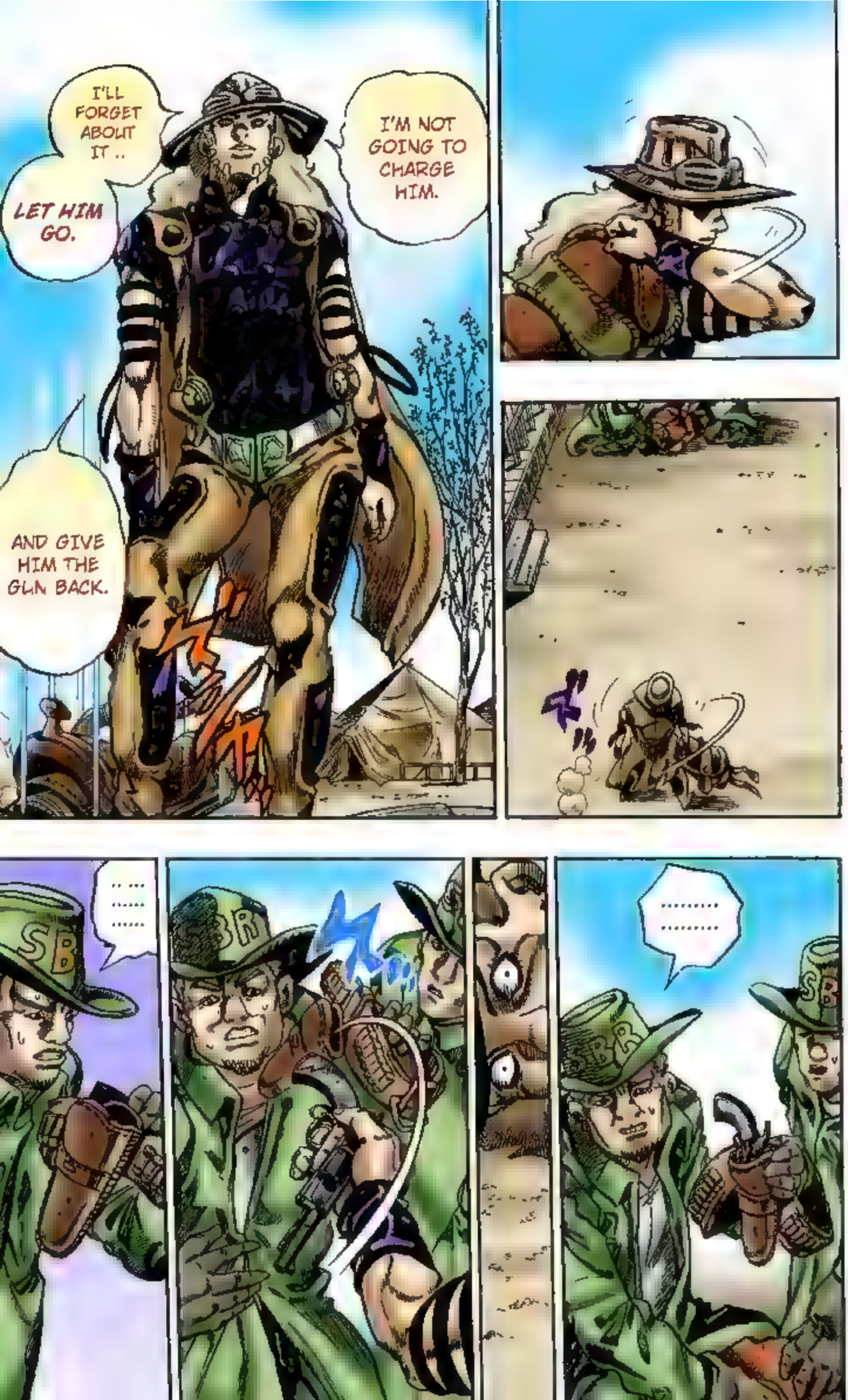
I'LL FORGET ABOUT IT ..
LET HIM GO.
I'M NOT GOING TO CHARGE HIM.
AND GIVE HIM THE GUN BACK.
.. ..
SB
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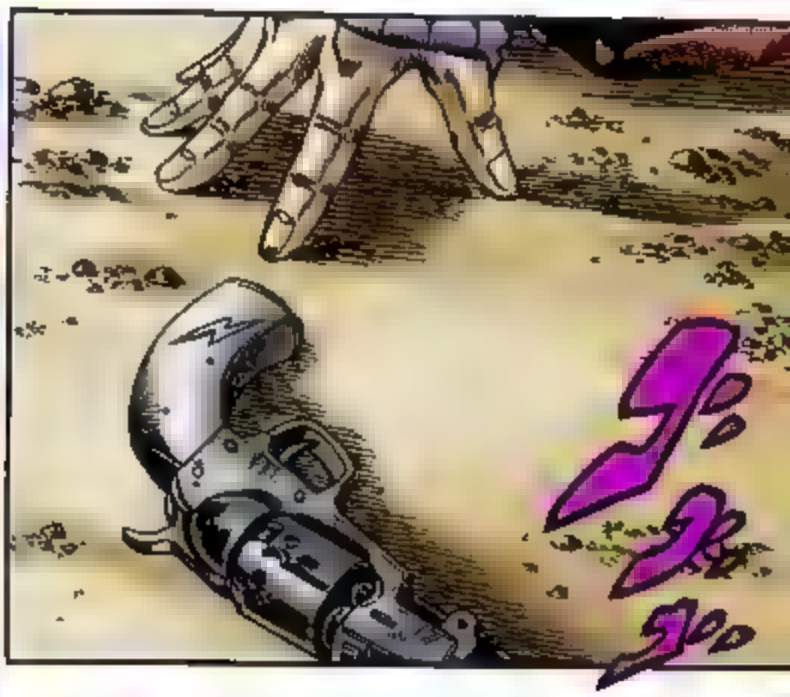
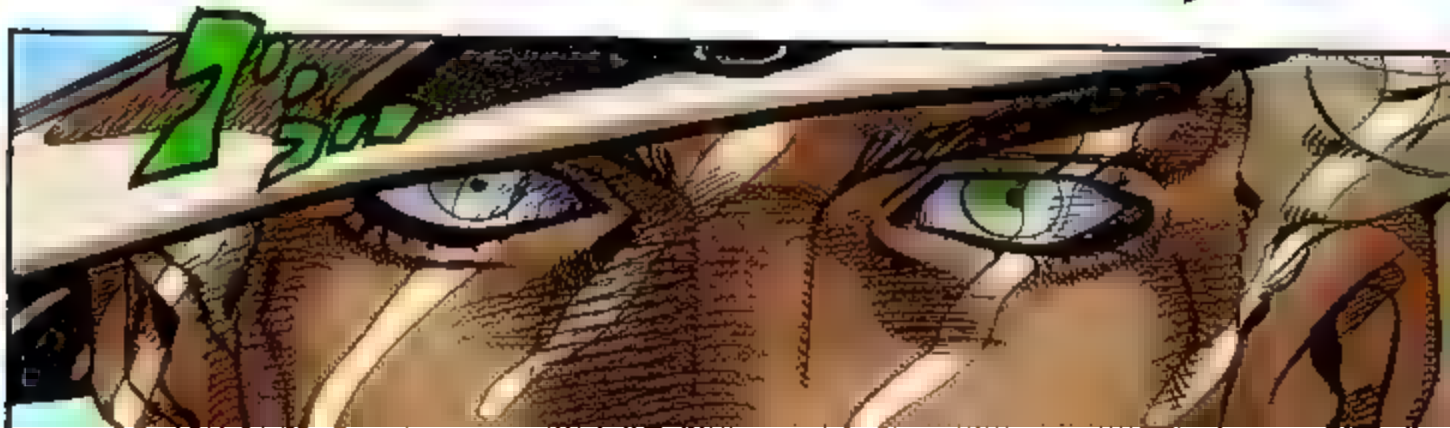
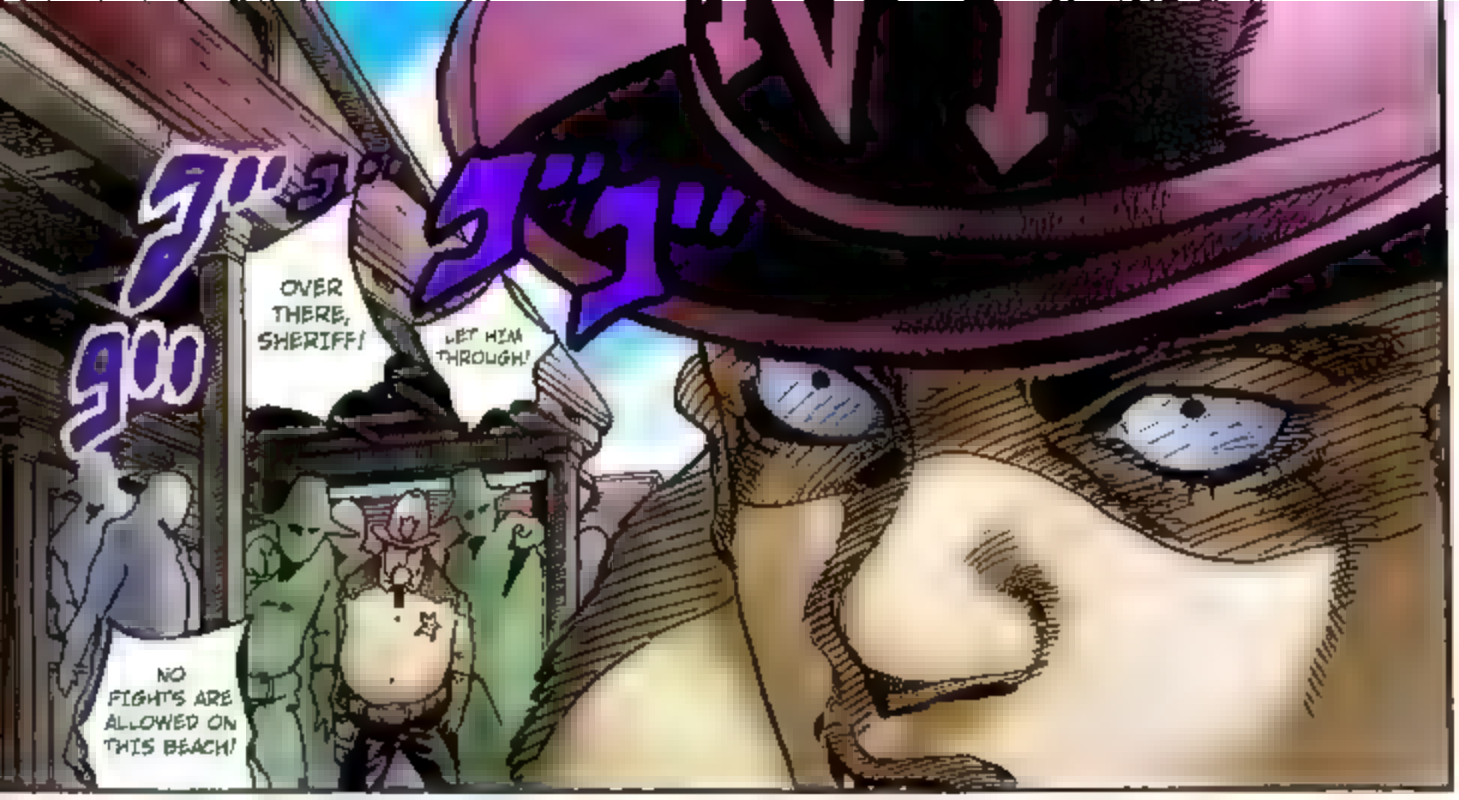
.....
.....

IF YOU DO, THAT'LL BE THE 'SIGN'...
BUT...
PICK IT UP.
IF YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO BOTHER ME...
DAMMIT! THIS IS REAL BAD!
WHAT IS IT?! WHAT'S ALL THE NOISE?!
LET ME THROUGH! WHERE'S THE SHERIFF? GET HIM OVER HERE QUICK!
I CAN'T SEE IN FRONT OF ME!
YOU GUYS! WHAT IS IT?!
MOVE IT! DAMN, I CAN'T SEE! JERKS!



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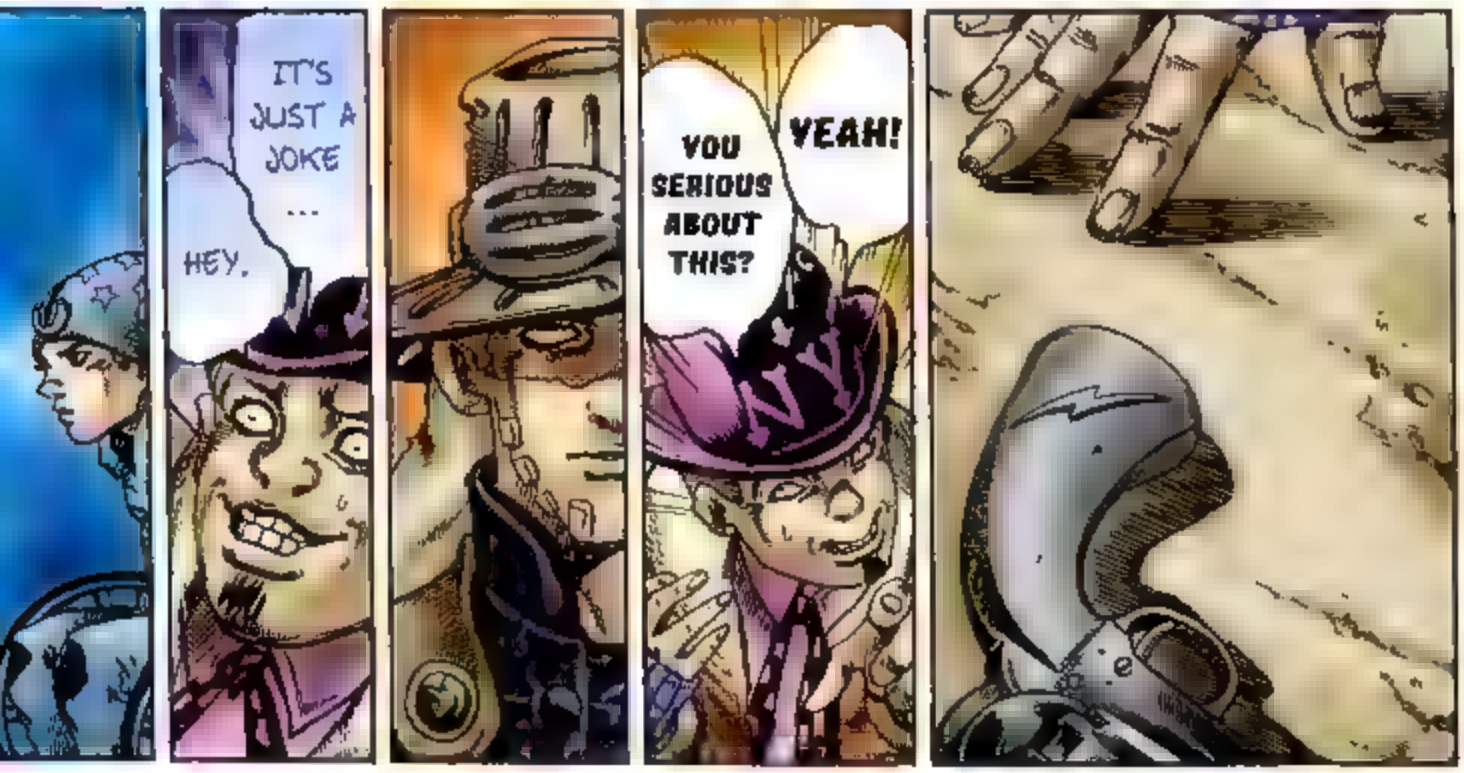
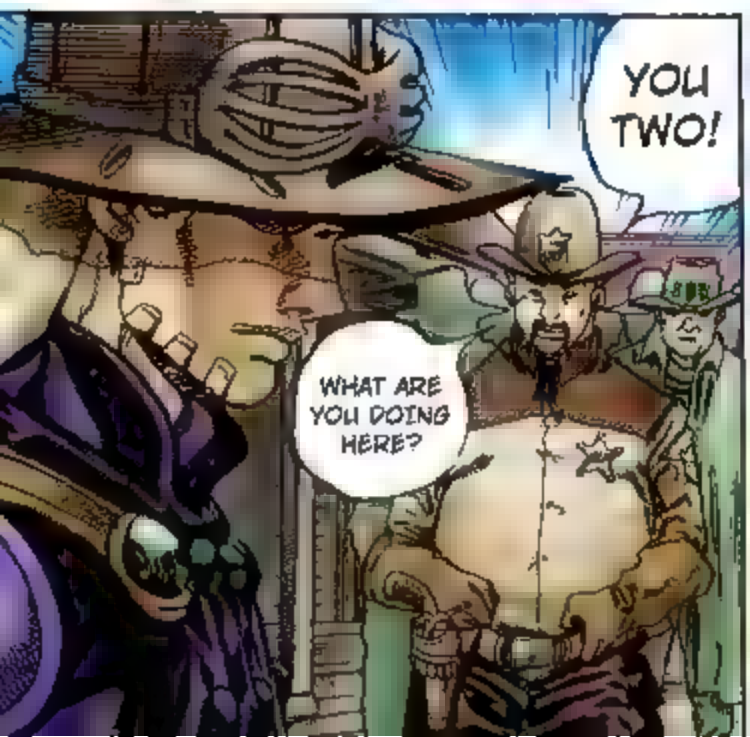
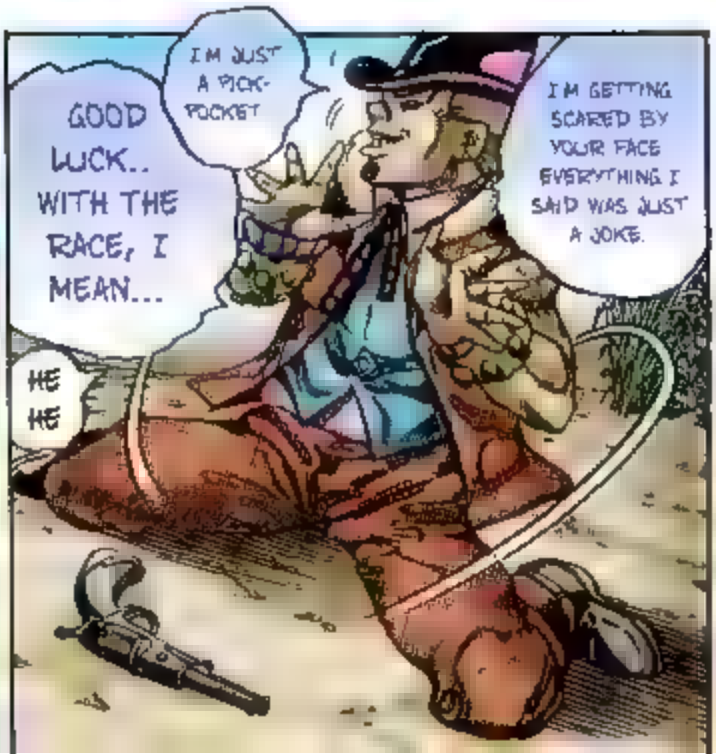
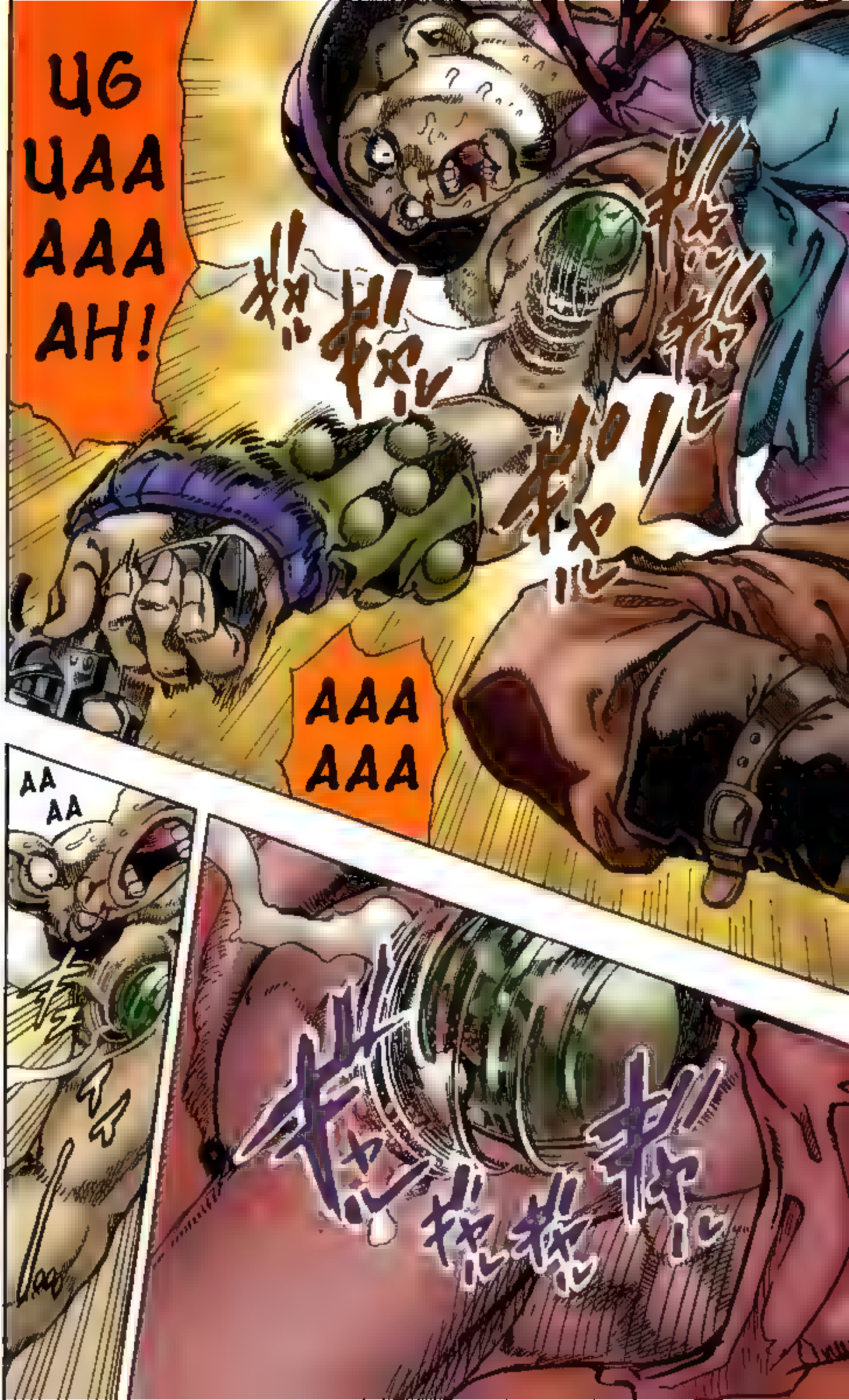
OVER THERE, SHERIFF!
LET HIM THROUGH!
NO FIGHTS ARE ALLOWED ON THIS BEACH!


IT'S JUST A JOKE ...
HEY.
YOU SERIOUS ABOUT THIS?
YEAH!


YOU TWO!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?


I'M JUST A PICK-POCKET
GOOD LUCK.. WITH THE RACE, I MEAN...
I'M GETTING SCARED BY YOUR FACE EVERYTHING I SAID WAS JUST A JOKE.
HE HE

UGEE!
!!
AH!
AH!


UG UAA AAA AH!
AAA AAA
AA AA

AH
AAH
AH

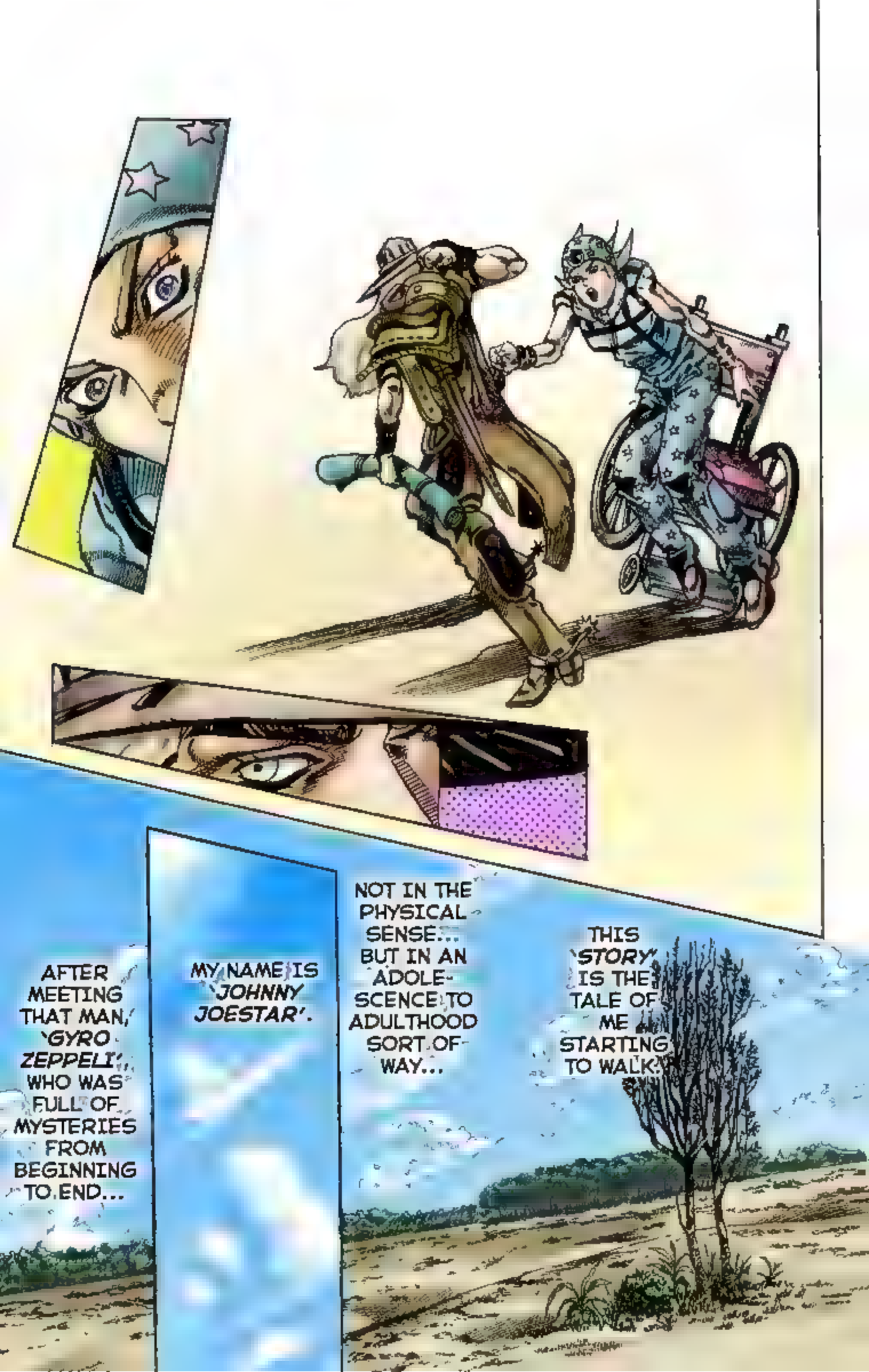
NOOO
OOOO
OOO
OO
O!
LET GO OF THAT GUN... AND SEE A DOCTOR.
BEFORE LUNCH...
I'M NOT A NICE GUY.

YOU BAS- TARD!
N.Y.
DIEGO

ドガ
ガ
ガ
YAAA
AAA!

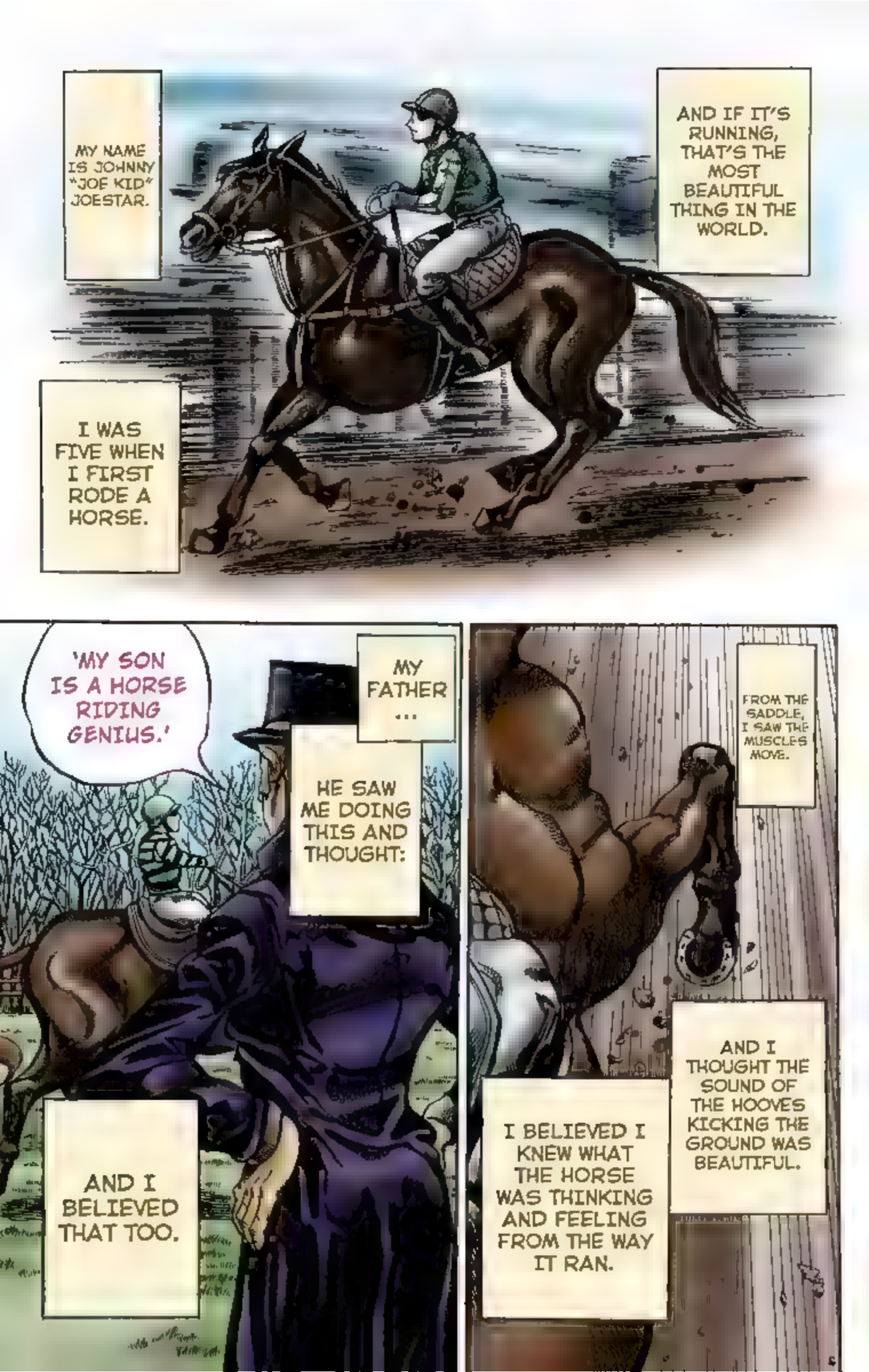
WE SHOULD ...!
SHERIFF!
NO.
HE THREW THAT STEEL BALL IN HIS BELT AT THAT GUNMAN'S ARM.
YOU SAW THAT! WHAT DID HE DO?!
THEN IT ACCIDENTALLY BOUNCED BACK.
NO LAWS WERE BROKEN... LET HIM GO.
THERE'S NO PROBLEM. IT WAS JUST A DUEL.
THE DUEL WAS FAIR ON BOTH SIDES.
WHAT'S WITH THAT STEEL BALL?
HEY, YOU!
THAT'S WRONG ...
I TOLD YOU GUYS TO MOVE! LET ME THROUGH!
MOVE!
THAT'S NOT WHAT HAPPENED! ...THE STEEL BALL WAS SPINNING... AT A HIGH SPEED! IT WAS STILL SPINNING WHEN IT HIT THE GUY'S ARM!
AH! WHY, YOU...!
N... NO...

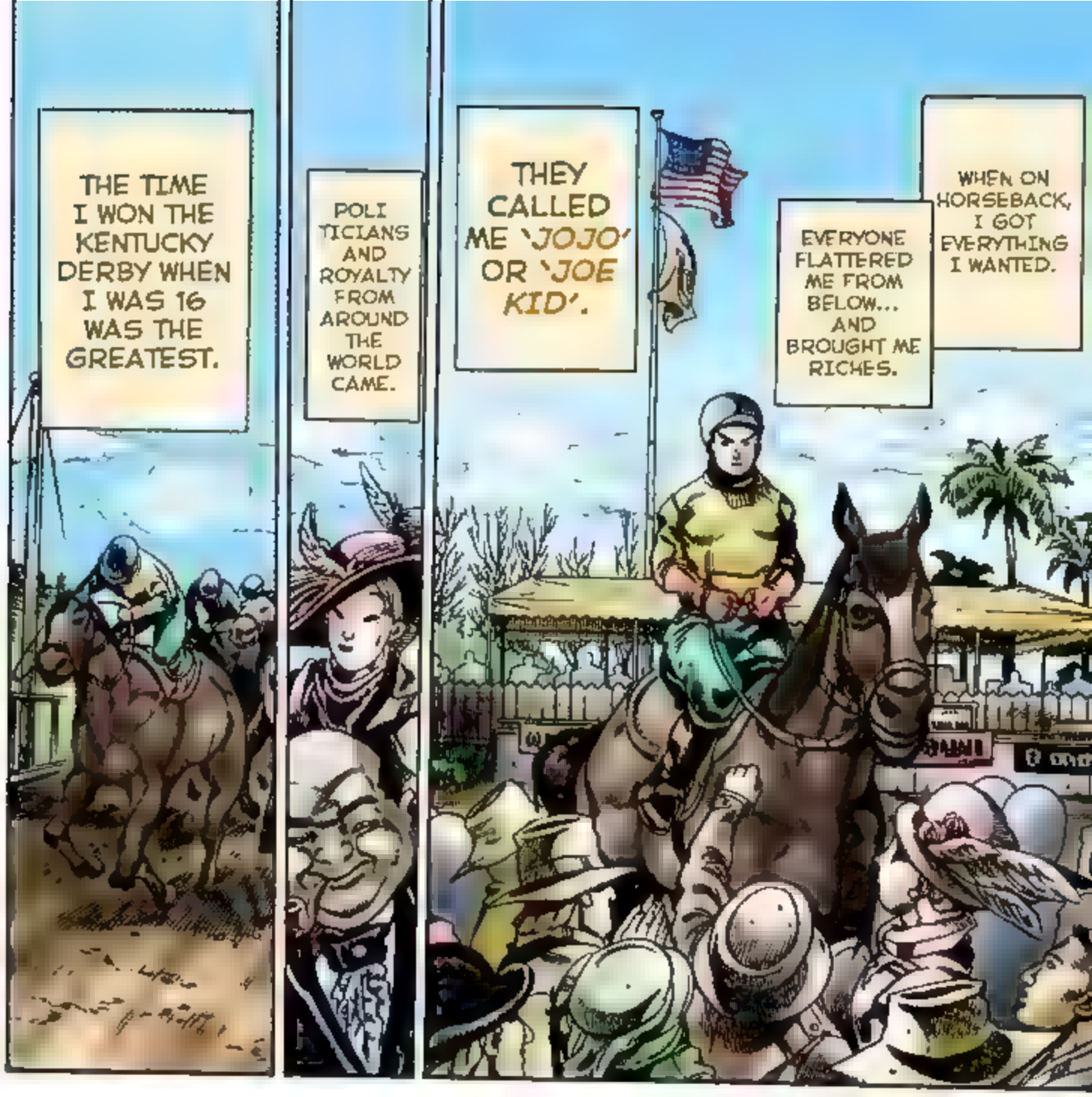
HEY, DON'T TOUCH IT! IT'S STILL SPIN-NING!
LET ME SEE IT ONE MORE TIME!
KOOO
KOOO

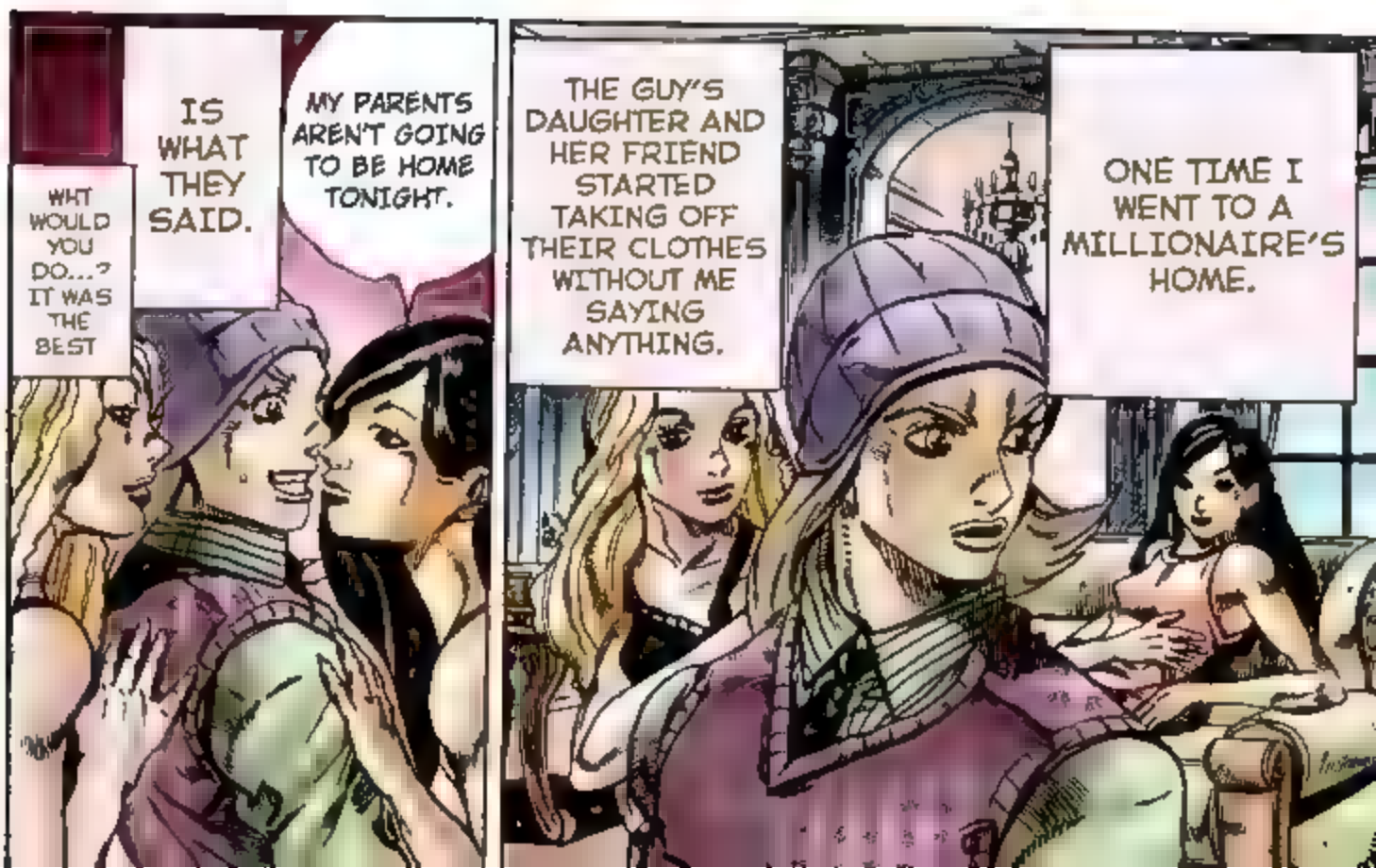

AFTER MEETING THAT MAN, 'GYRO ZEPPELI', WHO WAS FULL OF MYSTERIES FROM BEGINNING TO END...
MY NAME IS 'JOHNNY JOESTAR'.
NOT IN THE PHYSICAL SENSE... BUT IN AN ADOLE-SCENCE TO ADULTHOOD SORT OF WAY...
THIS 'STORY' IS THE TALE OF ME STARTING TO WALK.

STEEL BALL RUN
スティール・ボール・ラン
#3
JOHNNY JOESTAR

DID I SIMPLY WANT TO SEE THE BEGINNING OF THE RACE LIKE THE OTHER SPECTATORS?
WHEN I LOOK BACK...
FOR WHAT REASON DID I COME TO THIS BEACH?
PEOPLE ARE DRAWN TO BEAUTY...
IT'S BETTER WHEN IT'S SHINY AND NEW.
I WAS DRAWN TO THE BEACH BY SOMETHING.
OR WAS IT THE NOSTALGIA FOR THE HORSES THAT WERE WITH ME SINCE I WAS YOUNG?


MY NAME IS JOHNNY "JOE KID" JOESTAR.
AND IF IT'S RUNNING, THAT'S THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THING IN THE WORLD.
I WAS FIVE WHEN I FIRST RODE A HORSE.
'MY SON IS A HORSE RIDING GENIUS.'
MY FATHER ...
HE SAW ME DOING THIS AND THOUGHT:
AND I BELIEVED THAT TOO.
FROM THE SADDLE, I SAW THE MUSCLES MOVE.
I BELIEVED I KNEW WHAT THE HORSE WAS THINKING AND FEELING FROM THE WAY IT RAN.
AND I THOUGHT THE SOUND OF THE HOOVES KICKING THE GROUND WAS BEAUTIFUL.


THE TIME I WON THE KENTUCKY DERBY WHEN I WAS 16 WAS THE GREATEST.
POLI TICIANS AND ROYALTY FROM AROUND THE WORLD CAME.
THEY CALLED ME 'JOJO' OR 'JOE KID'.
EVERYONE FLATTERED ME FROM BELOW... AND BROUGHT ME RICHES.
WHEN ON HORSEBACK, I GOT EVERYTHING I WANTED.


WHT WOULD YOU DO...? IT WAS THE BEST
IS WHAT THEY SAID.
MY PARENTS AREN'T GOING TO BE HOME TONIGHT.
THE GUY'S DAUGHTER AND HER FRIEND STARTED TAKING OFF THEIR CLOTHES WITHOUT ME SAYING ANYTHING.
ONE TIME I WENT TO A MILLIONAIRE'S HOME.

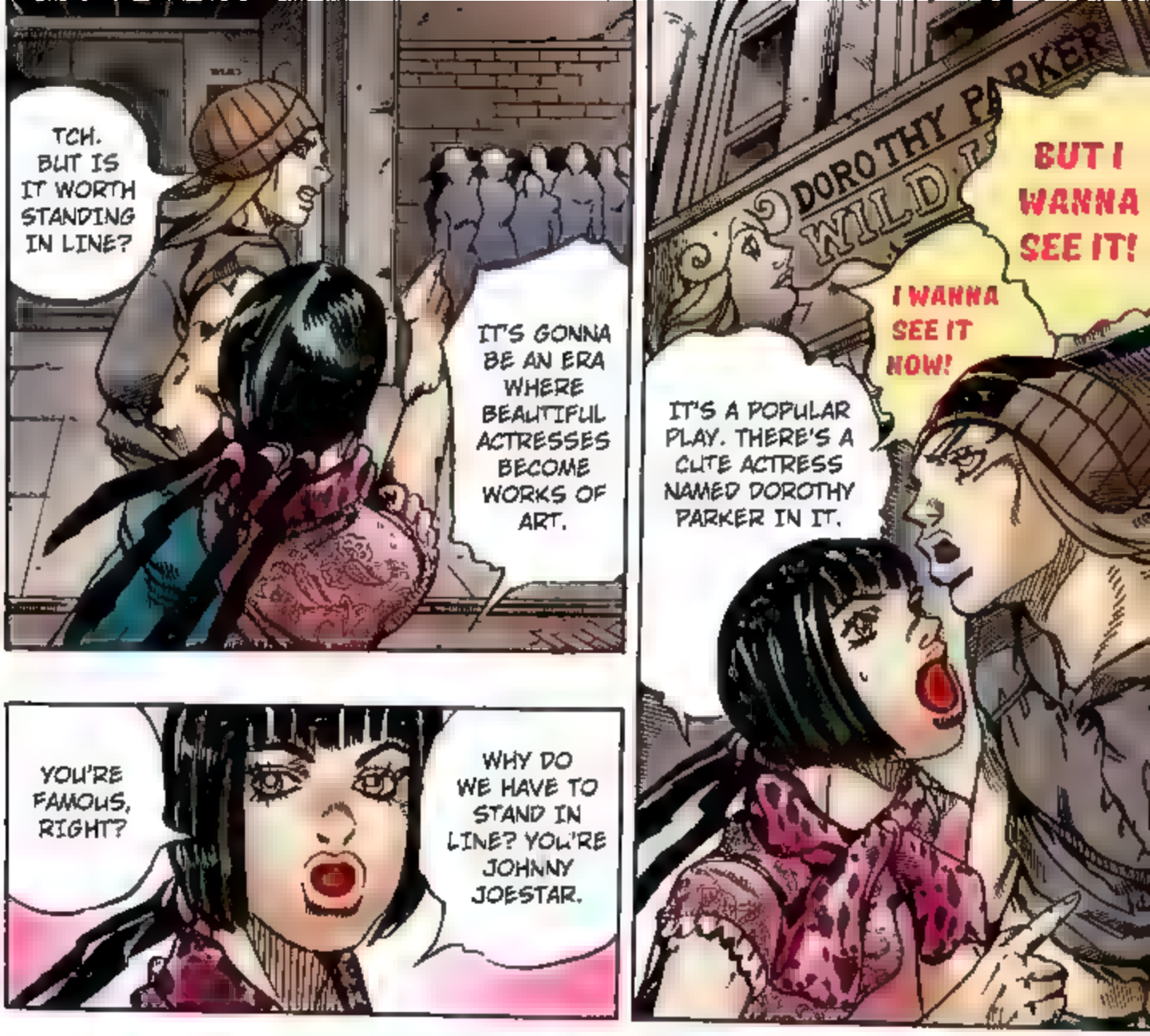
AND WHEN I FELT LIKE IT, I COULD RACE MY HORSE FASTER THAN ANYONE ELSE.
EVERYONE CALLED ME ROOKIE.

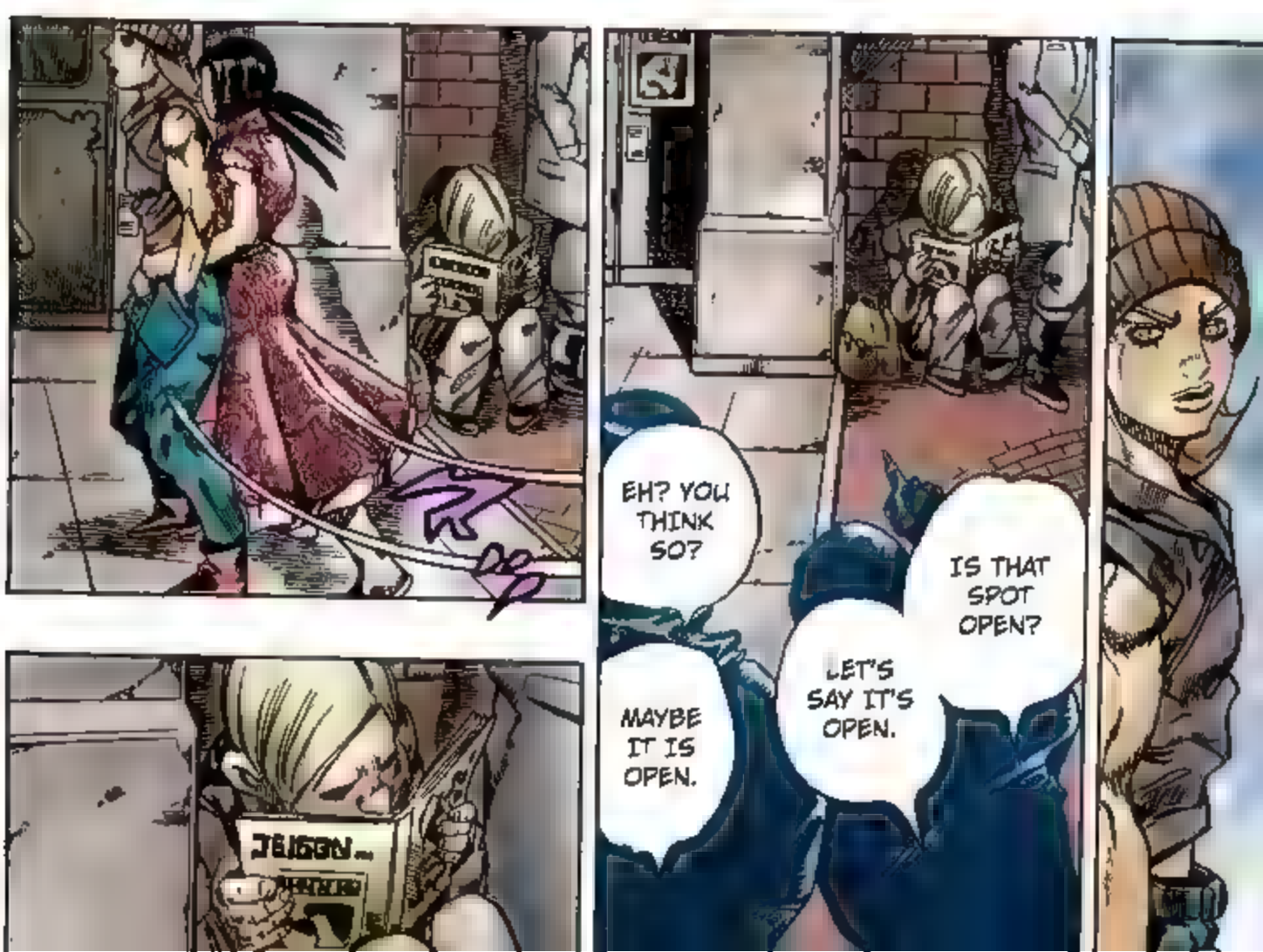
WILD HORSE

UGH

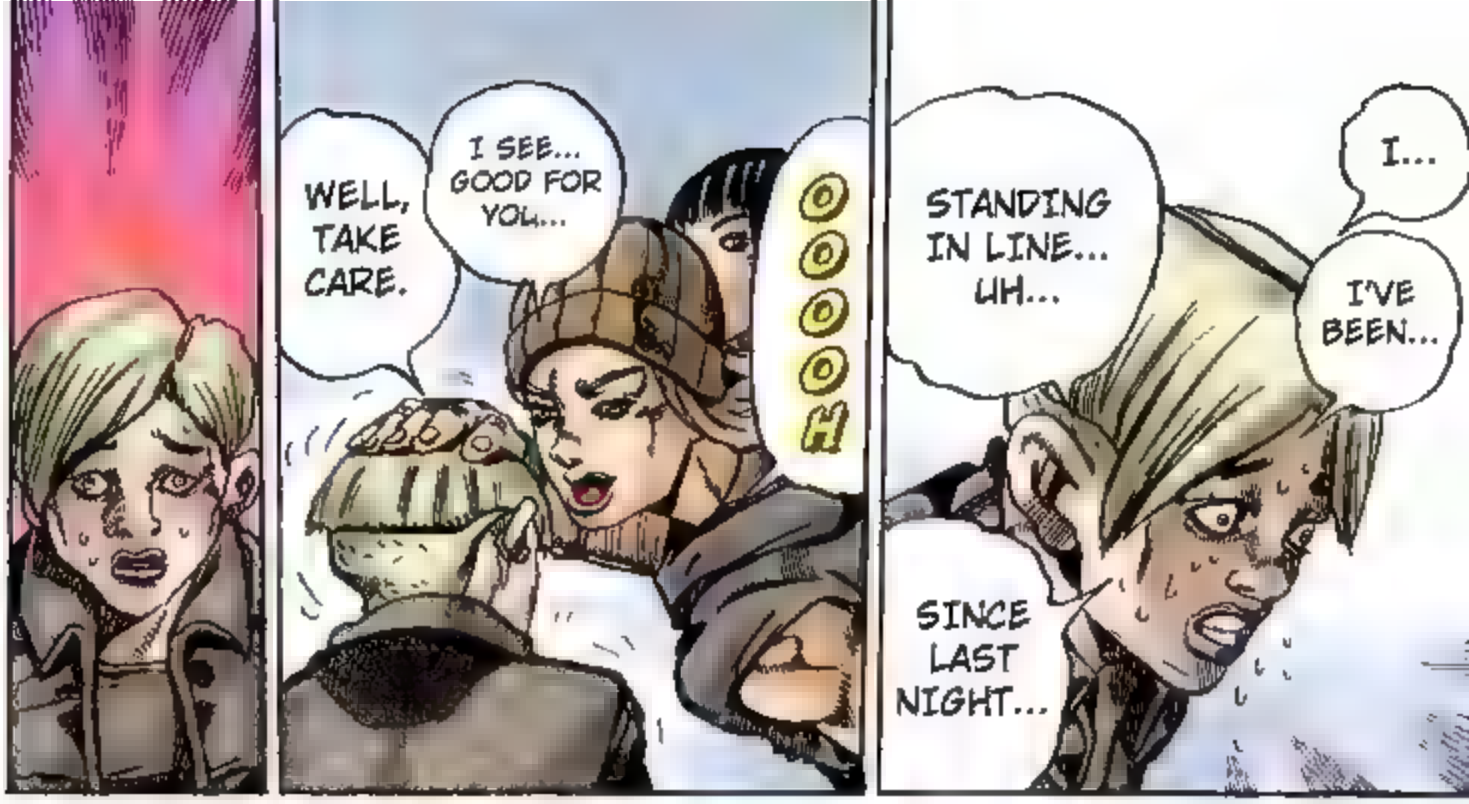
TO WIN ON HORSEBACK WAS A SYMBOL OF VICTORY AND POWER IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND.

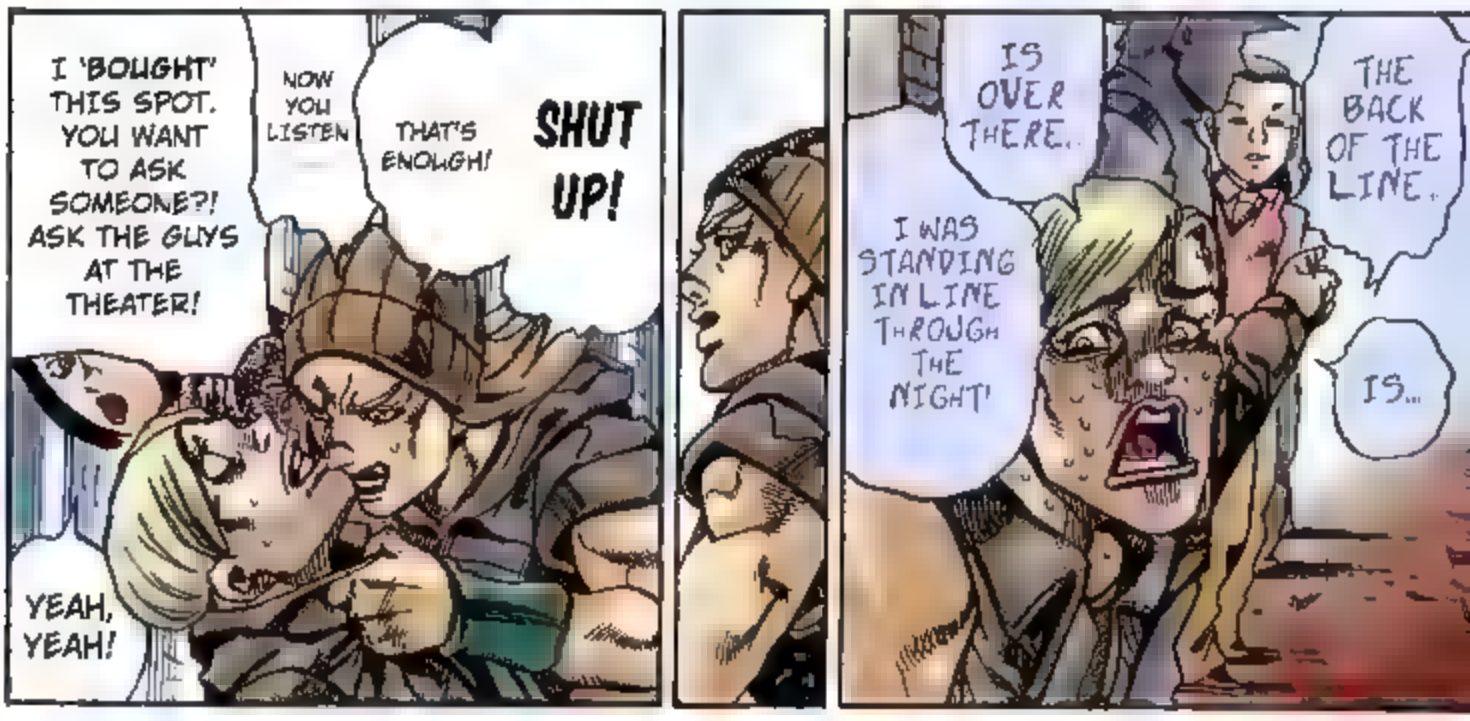
WHA AAA AAT ?!
LET'S COME BACK SOME OTHER DAY
HEY, THE LINE'S WRAPPED AROUND THE CORNER AND STRETCHES TO THE ROAD OVER THERE.
THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE .. WE CAN'T WAIT TO GET IN! NOT TODAY!

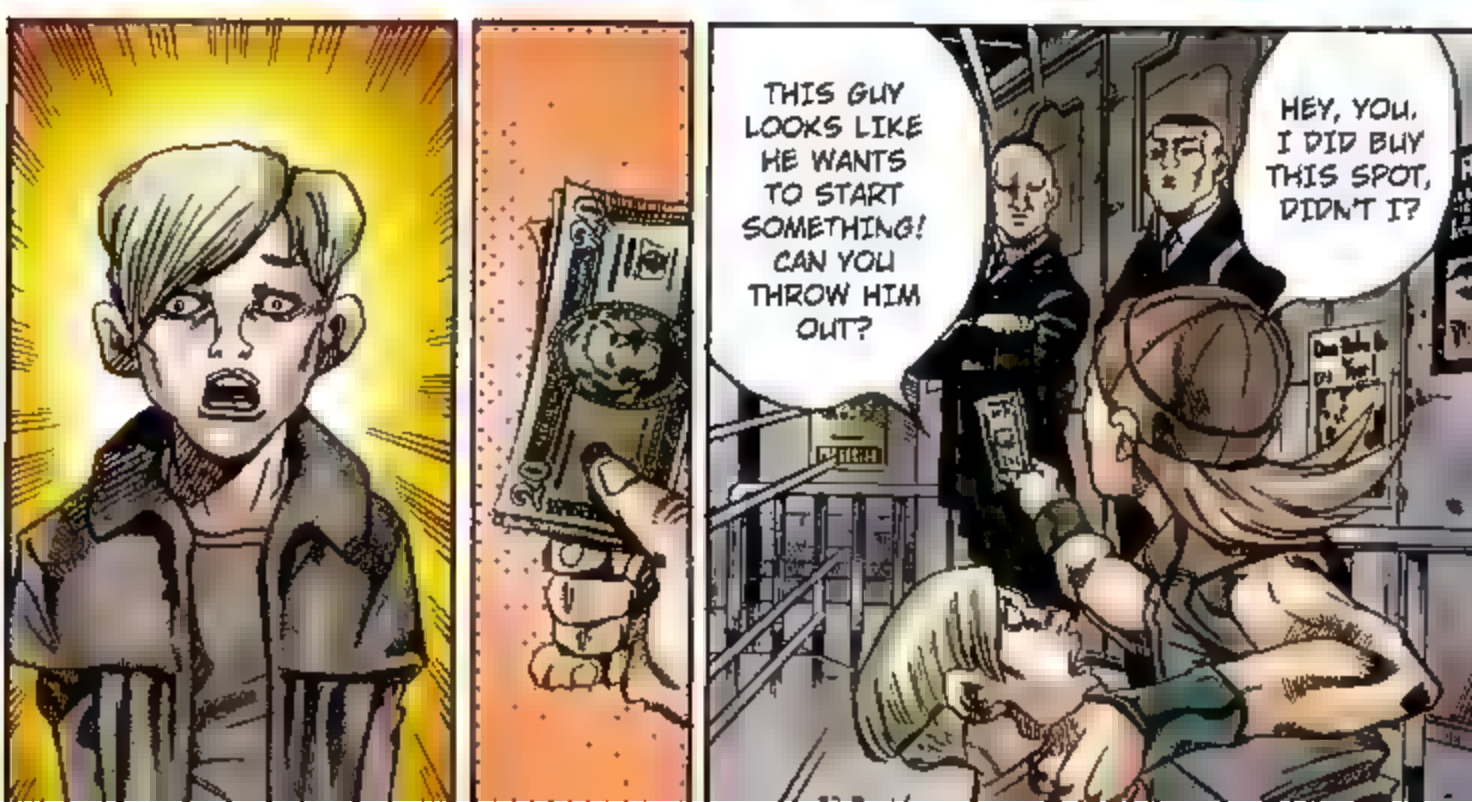

TCH. BUT IS IT WORTH STANDING IN LINE?
IT'S GONNA BE AN ERA WHERE BEAUTIFUL ACTRESSES BECOME WORKS OF ART.
DOROTHY PARKER
WILD
BUT I WANNA SEE IT!
I WANNA SEE IT NOW!
IT'S A POPULAR PLAY. THERE'S A CUTE ACTRESS NAMED DOROTHY PARKER IN IT.
YOU'RE FAMOUS, RIGHT?
WHY DO WE HAVE TO STAND IN LINE? YOU'RE JOHNNY JOESTAR.


EH? YOU THINK SO?
IS THAT SPOT OPEN?
LET'S SAY IT'S OPEN.
MAYBE IT IS OPEN.

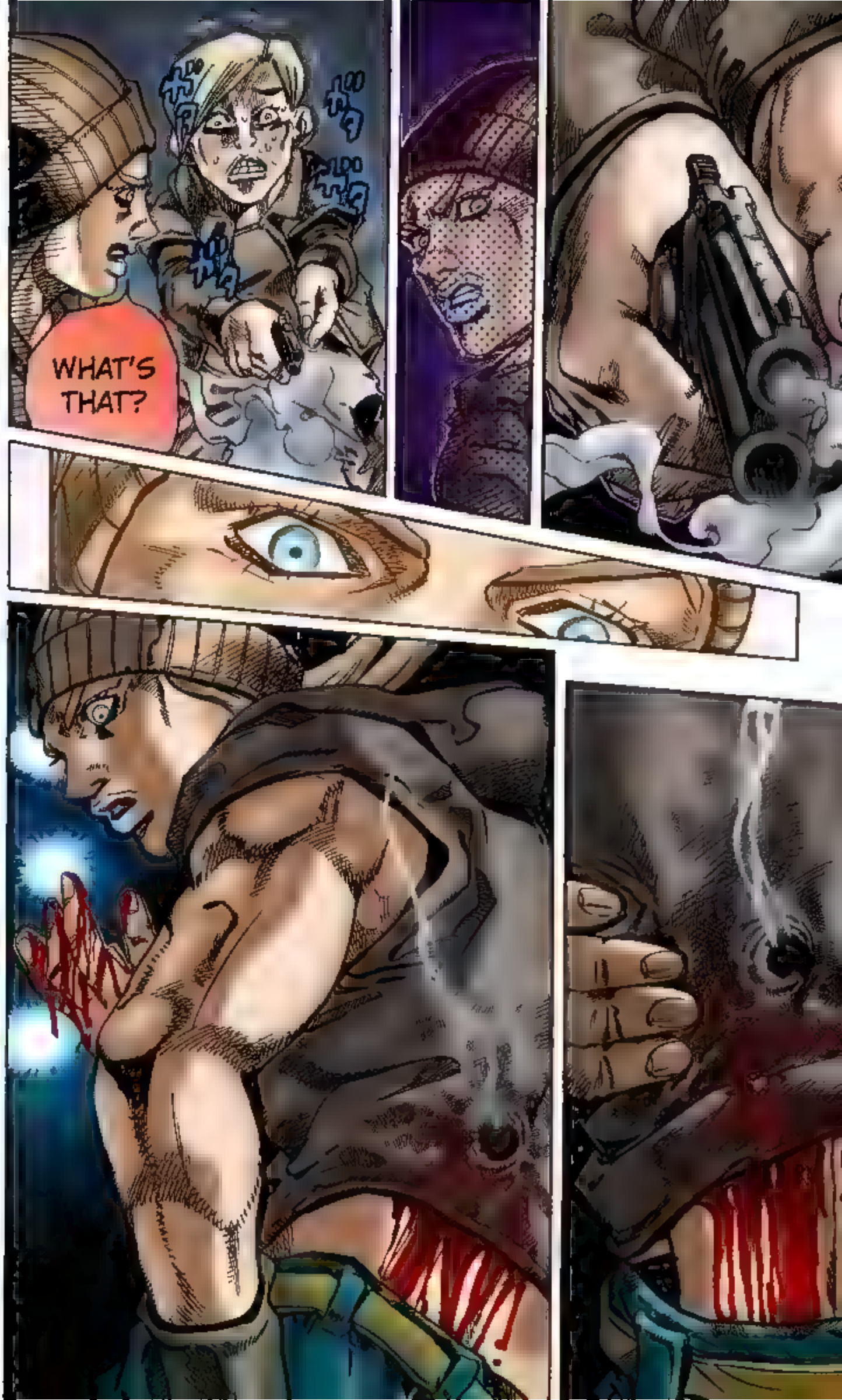
DEIGIN..
OF THE LINE...
THE FRONT..
IS. UH...
IT STARTS...
UH
UH...
I SEE...
.....
RIGHT HERE, YOU KNOW...

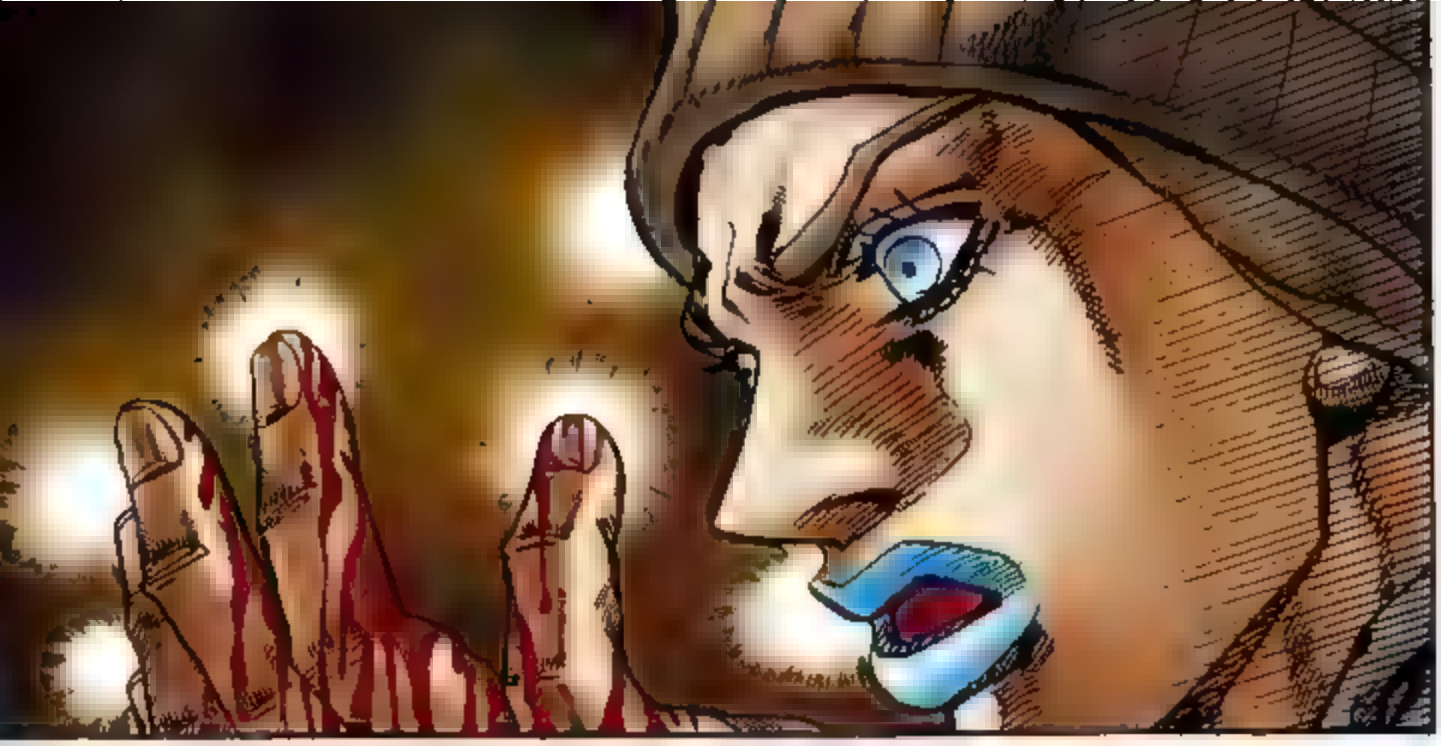

WELL, TAKE CARE.
I SEE... GOOD FOR YOU...
OOOOH
STANDING IN LINE... UH...
I...
I'VE BEEN...
SINCE LAST NIGHT...

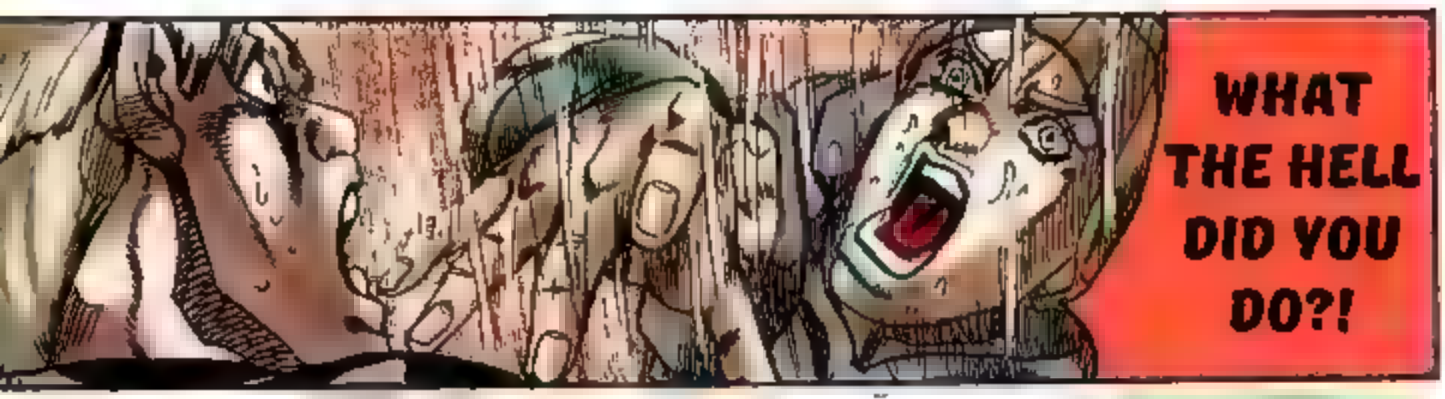

I 'BOUGHT' THIS SPOT. YOU WANT TO ASK SOMEONE?! ASK THE GUYS AT THE THEATER!
NOW YOU LISTEN
THAT'S ENOUGH!
SHUT UP!
YEAH, YEAH!
IS OVER THERE..
I WAS STANDING IN LINE THROUGH THE NIGHT!
THE BACK OF THE LINE.
IS...

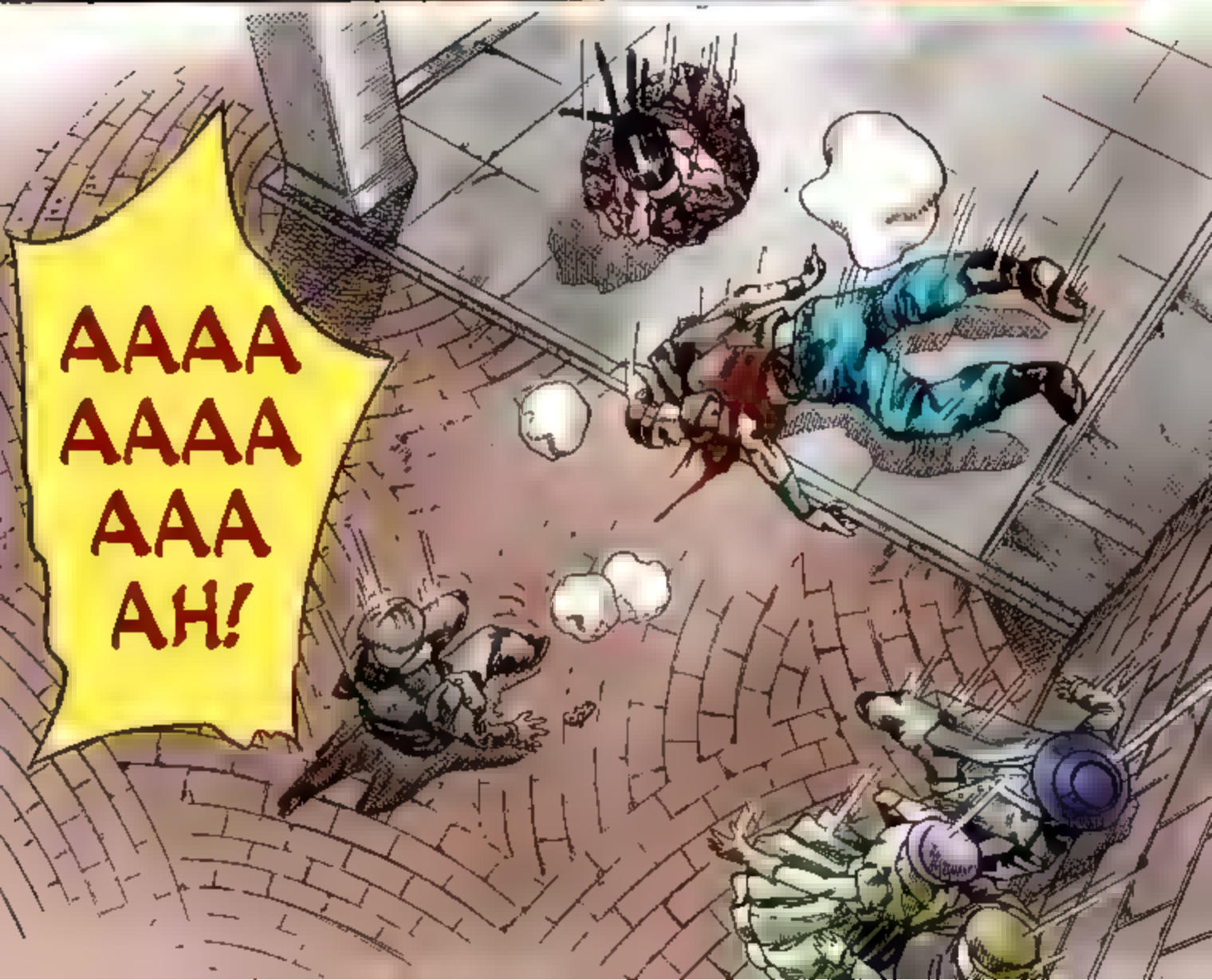

THIS GUY LOOKS LIKE HE WANTS TO START SOMETHING! CAN YOU THROW HIM OUT?
HEY, YOU. I DID BUY THIS SPOT, DIDN'T I?

HEE HEE! ♡
IT'S ABOUT TO OPEN. ♡
HEY, HOW LONG UNTIL IT STARTS?
UH UH
YOU'RE A PERSISTENT BUGGER, AREN'T YOU?!
WHAAAT?! YOU AGAIN?!


WHAT'S THAT?

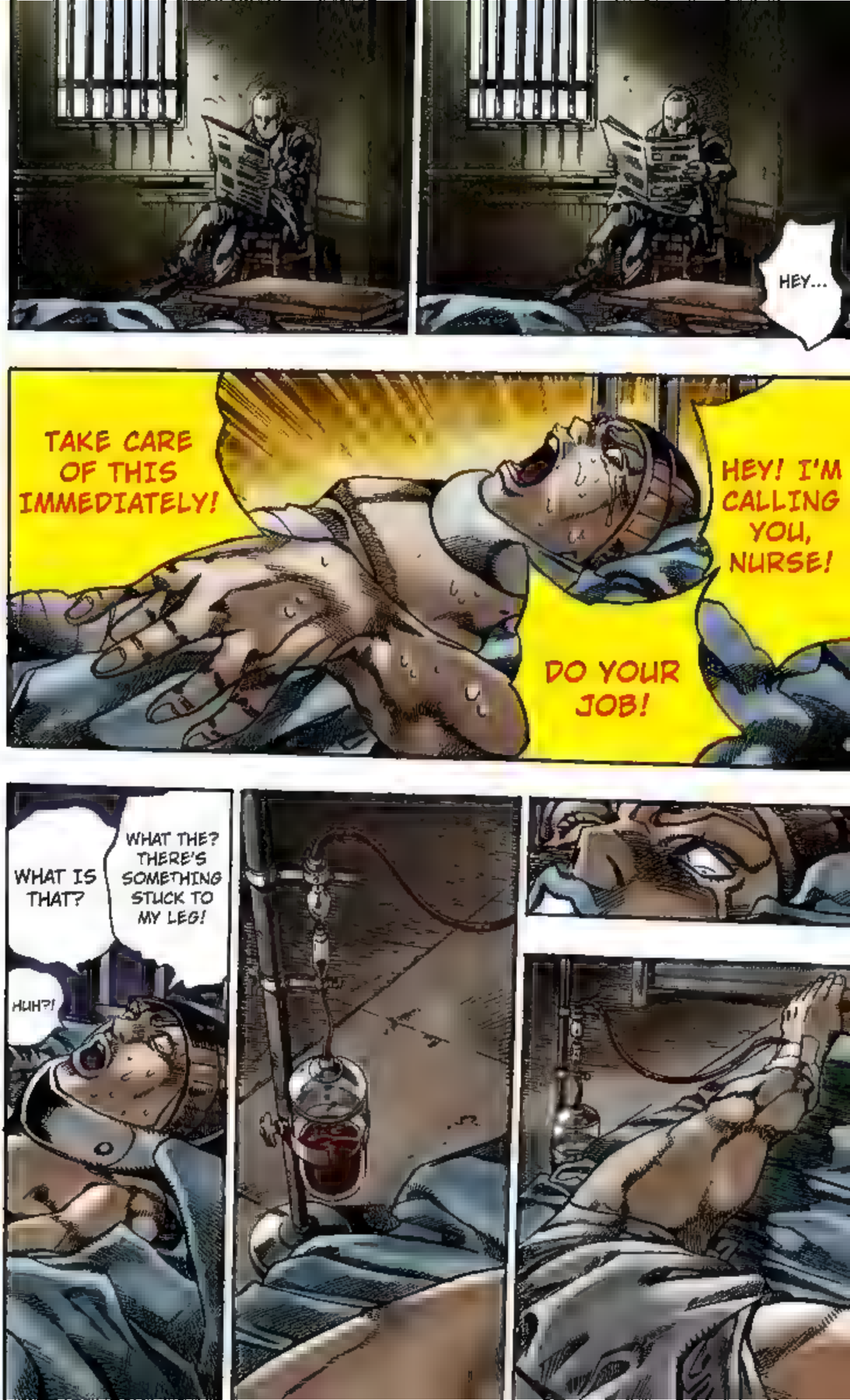



WHAT THE HELL DID YOU DO?!


AAAA AAAA AAA AH!

HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HEY...
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH

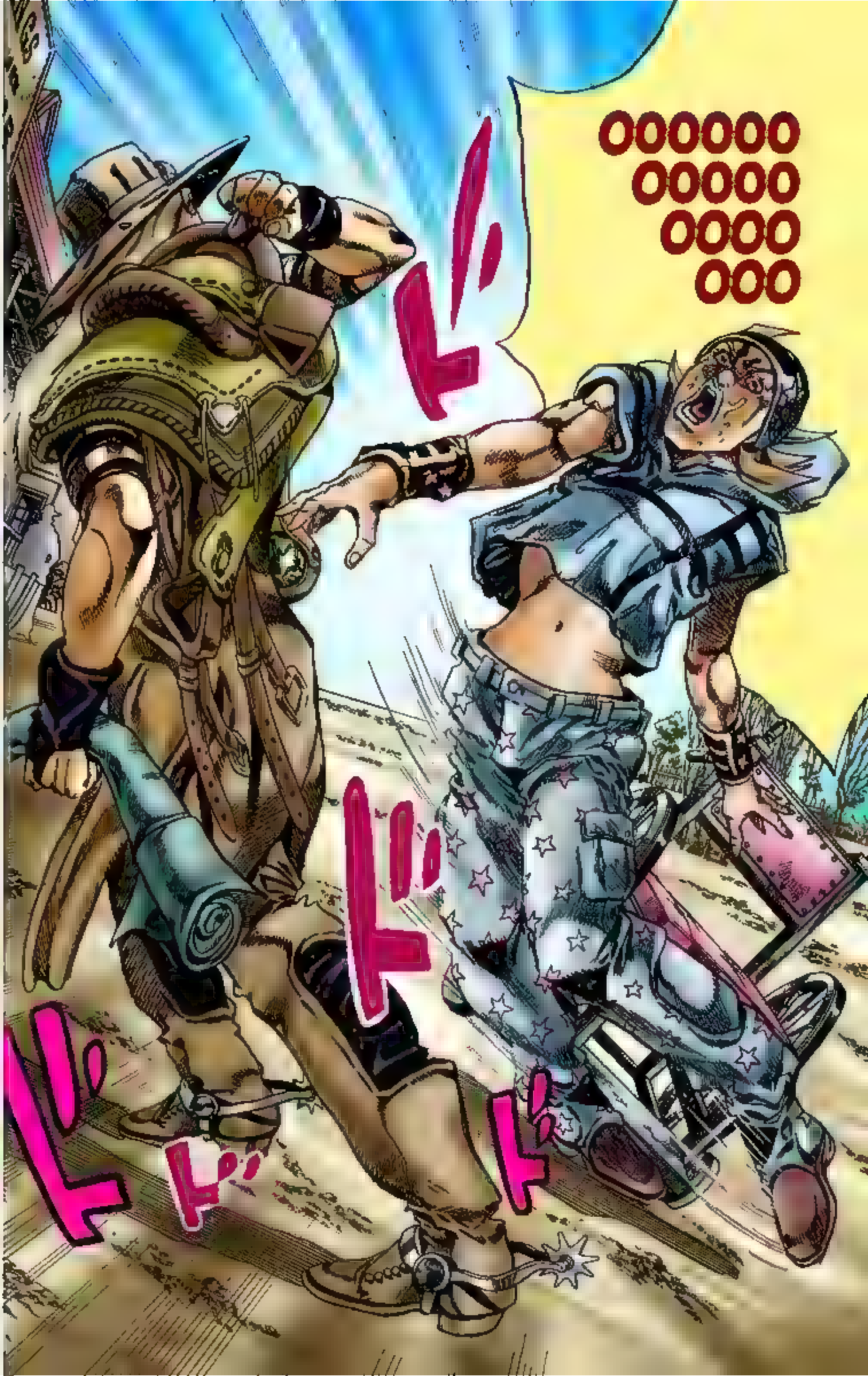
WHY AREN'T YOU ANSWERING .?
NURSE ...
N...
IT... IT STINKS IN HERE... IT REEKS...
IT'S. IT'S ME.
I SAID IT REEKS IN HERE...
CAN'T YOU HEAR ME?!
DAMMIT!
I'M... I'M SOILING MYSELF...


HEY...
TAKE CARE OF THIS IMMEDIATELY!
HEY! I'M CALLING YOU, NURSE!
DO YOUR JOB!
WHAT IS THAT?
WHAT THE? THERE'S SOMETHING STUCK TO MY LEG!
HUH?!

EH?
ZZ
ZZ
OOF
BAM
YOU'RE GOING TO WAKE UP THE OTHER PATIENTS.
SHUT THE HELL UP, MR. GENIUS JOCKEY.

DONATING BLOOD IS A GOOD PART-TIME JOB.
I'M JUST TAKING A LITTLE BLOOD FROM YOUR FOOT.
GAH
NGH
YOU DON'T MIND, DO YOU? BESIDES, YOU CAN'T FEEL ANYTHING BELOW THE WAIST.
Y... YOU...
UGH
GUH
WHAT ABOUT YOUR POLITICIAN AND ROYAL FRIENDS?
YOUR FATHER, WHO HASN'T VISITED SINCE YOU CHECKED IN?
YOU GONNA TELL SOMEONE? WHO?
IF YOU INJURED YOURSELF DURING A RACE, MAYBE, BUT A FORMER GENIUS JOCKEY WHO BECAME PARALYZED FROM THE WAIST DOWN BECAUSE HE WAS MESSING AROUND WITH SOME GIRL?

YOUR WOMAN IS PROBABLY BEING FRIENDLY WITH SOME OTHER GUY RIGHT NOW!
MFF!
MF!
NOBODY FEELS SORRY FOR YOU! EVEN VISITING THIS PLACE IS A BURDEN!
NOBODY WANTS TO SEE YOUR FACE ANYMORE!
STEEL BE RUN RAIL
Projected start in two years
uuuu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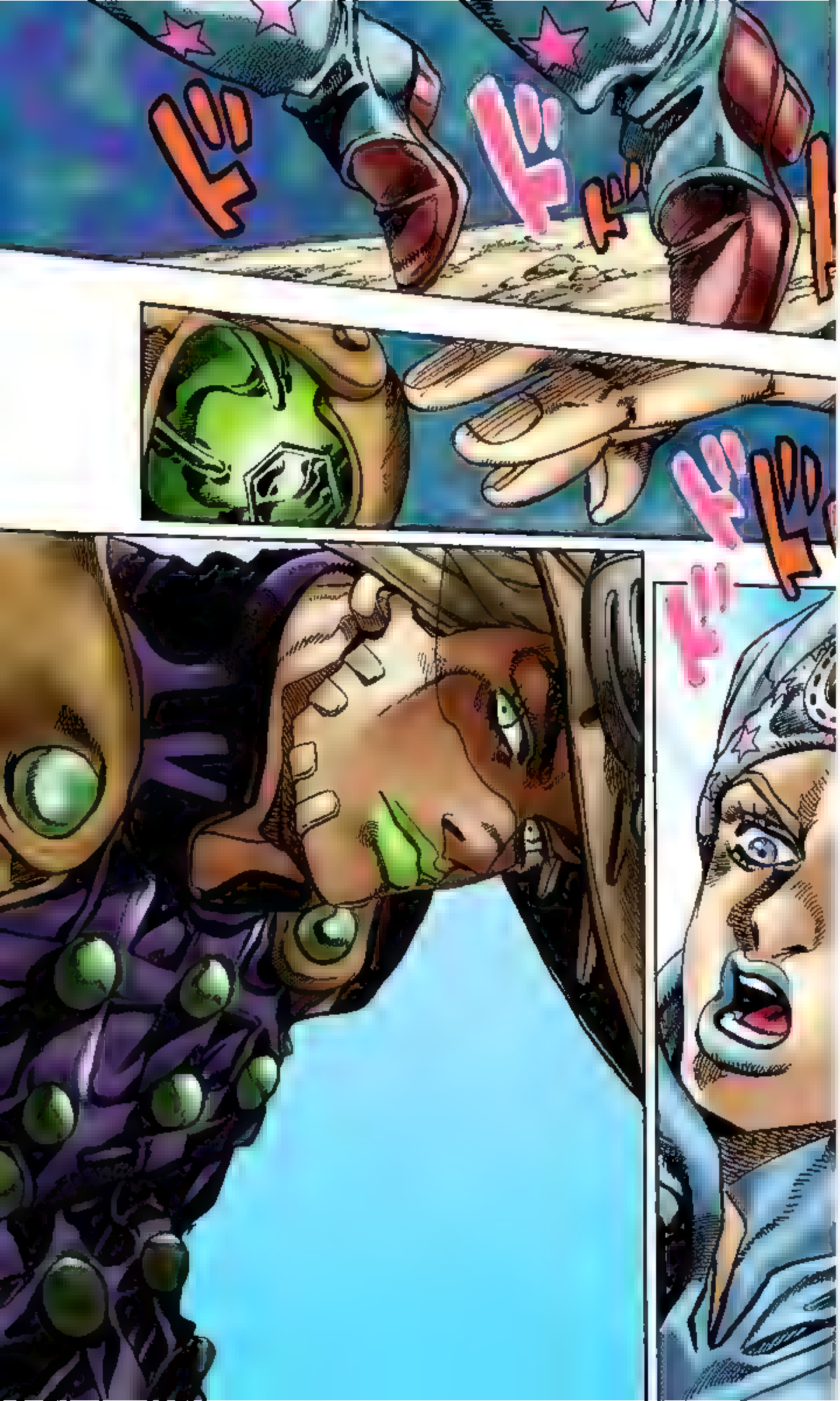
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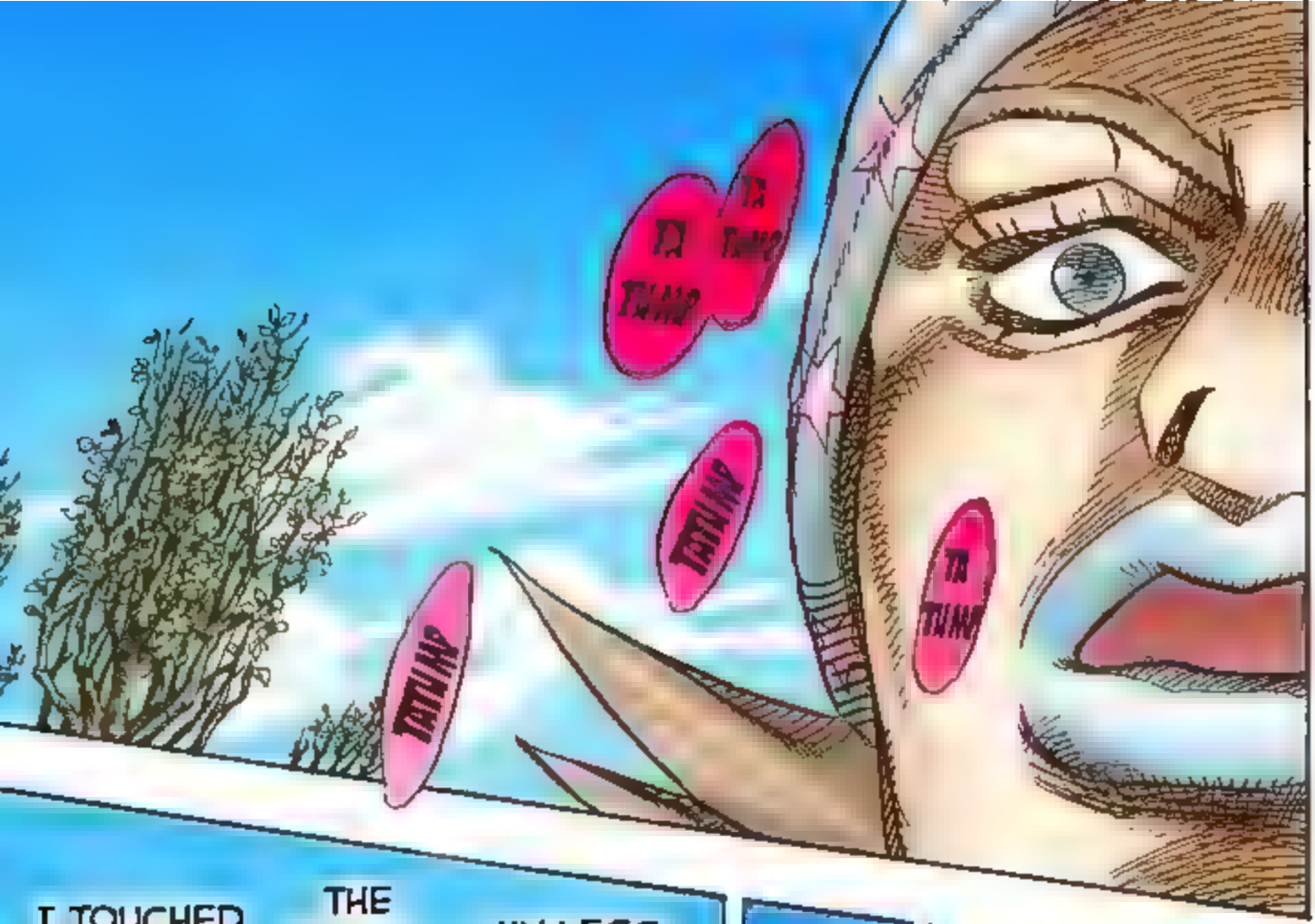
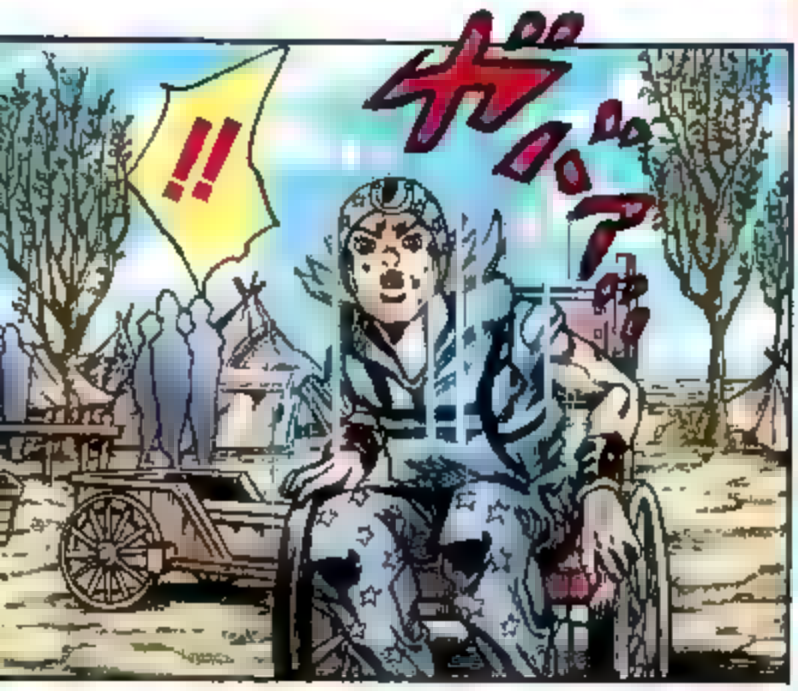


I TOUCHED IT... THAT MAN'S...

THE 'STEEL BALL'...

MY LEGS...



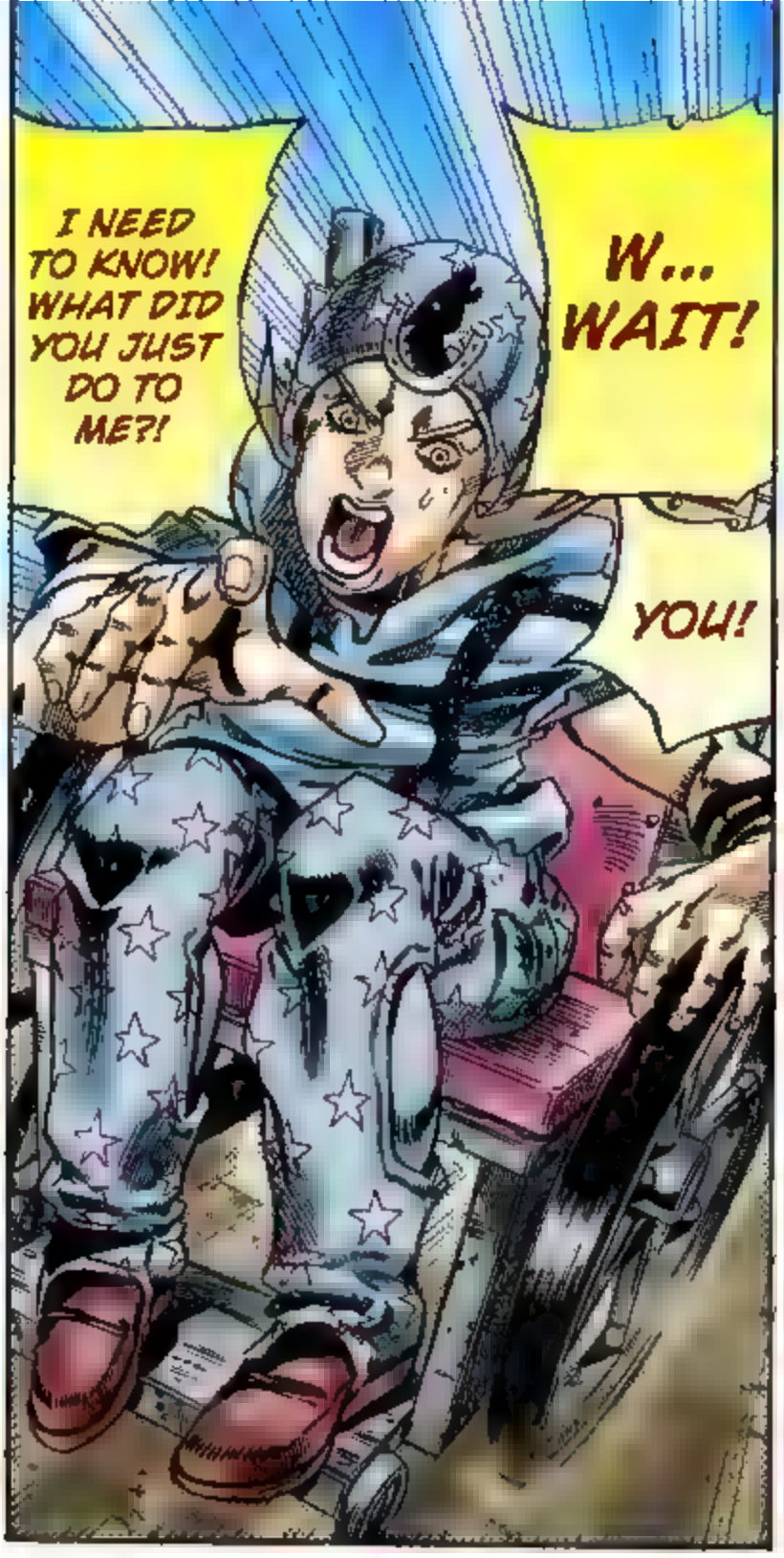
BUT THEY WON'T MOVE... THEY CAN'T ...

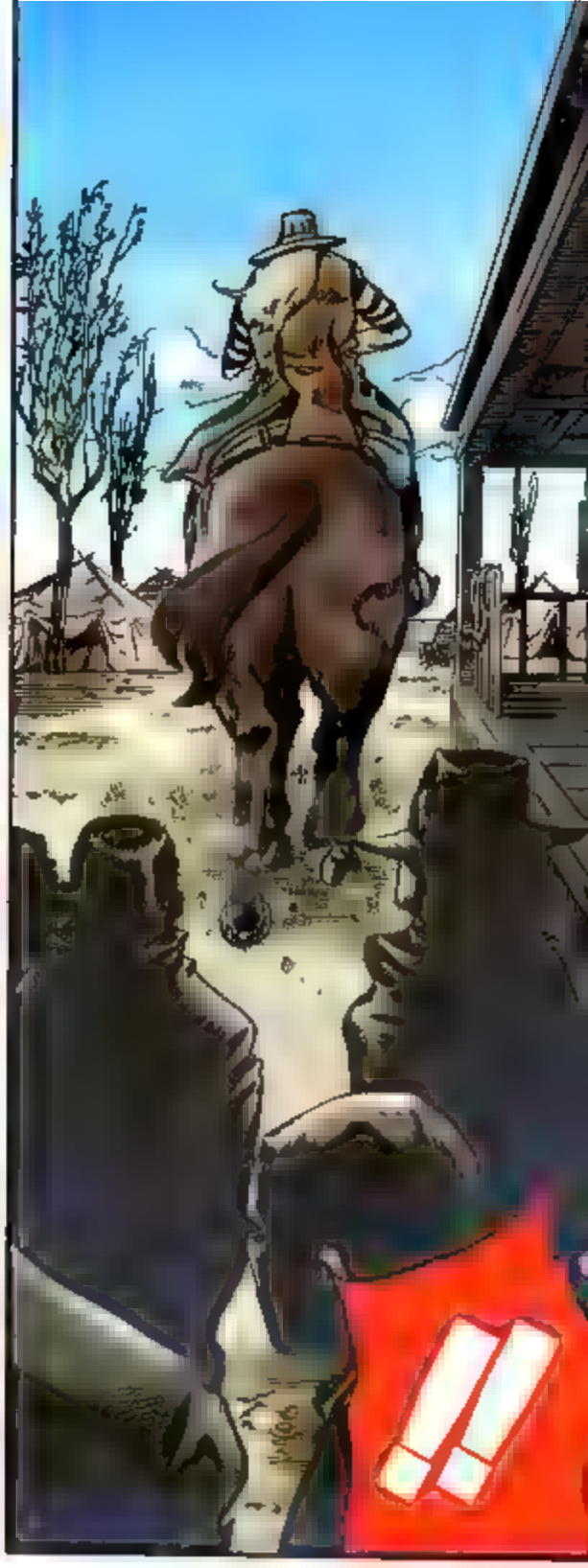
(DID THEY REALLY MOVE) ...?

JUST NOW...

WHAT ...?!

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?! ...NO, BUT... JUST NOW... IT REALLY...


I NEED TO KNOW! WHAT DID YOU JUST DO TO ME?!
W... WAIT!
YOU!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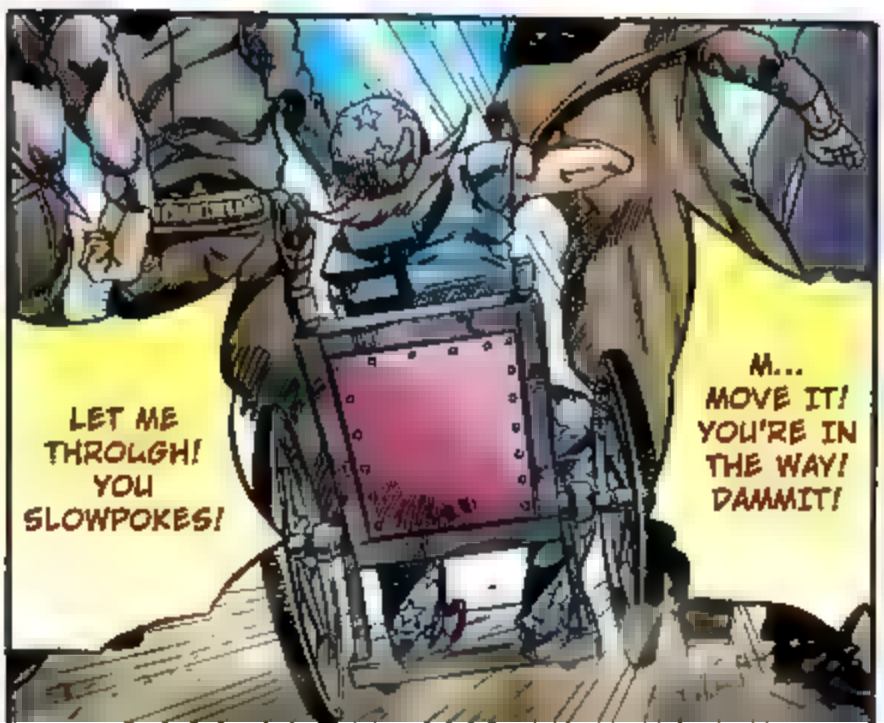
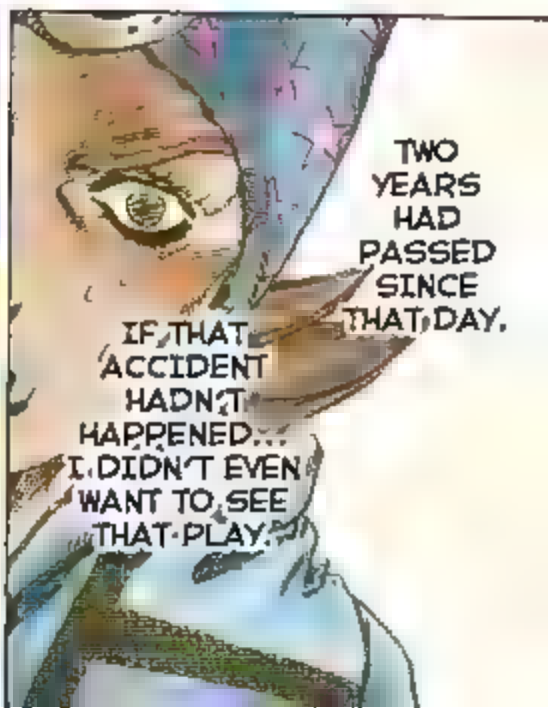
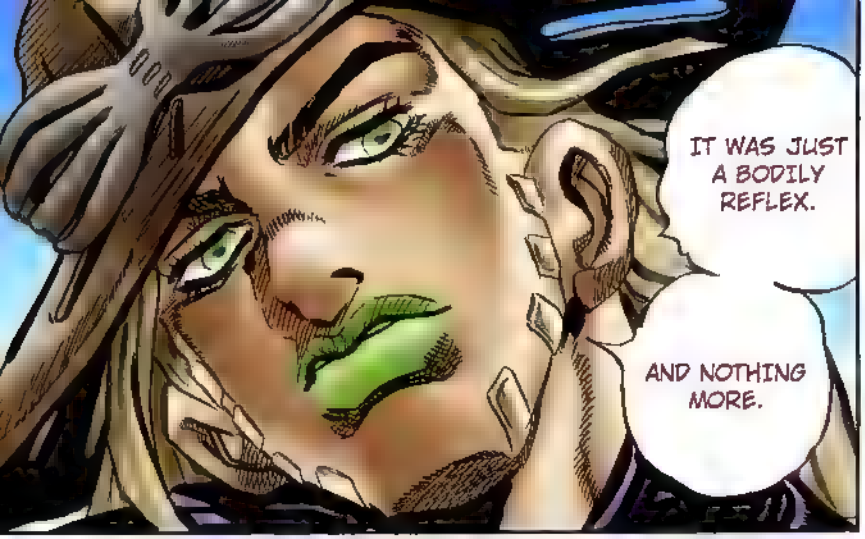
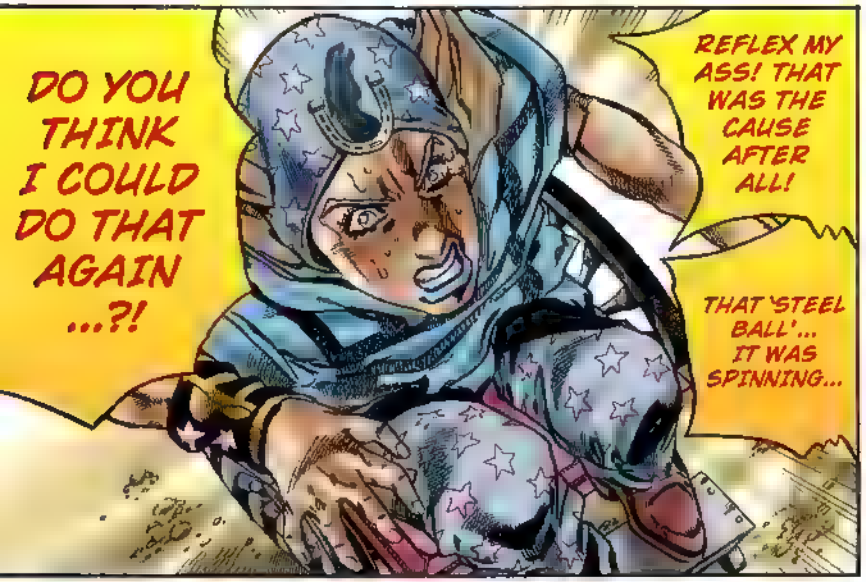
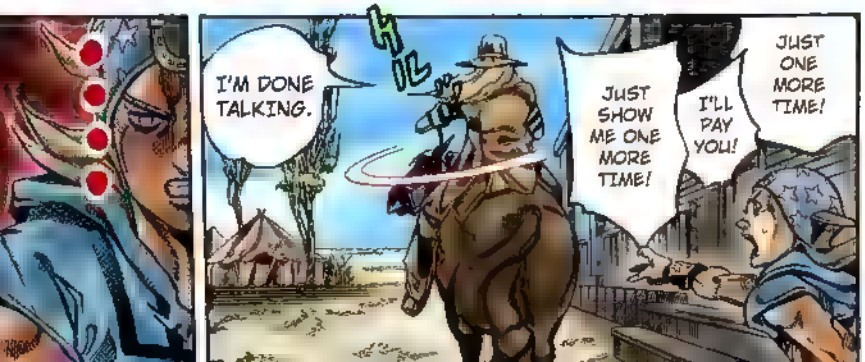

LET ME THROUGH! YOU SLOWPOKES!
M... MOVE IT! YOU'RE IN THE WAY! DAMMIT!


TWO YEARS HAD PASSED SINCE THAT DAY.
IF THAT ACCIDENT HADN'T HAPPENED... I DIDN'T EVEN WANT TO SEE THAT PLAY.

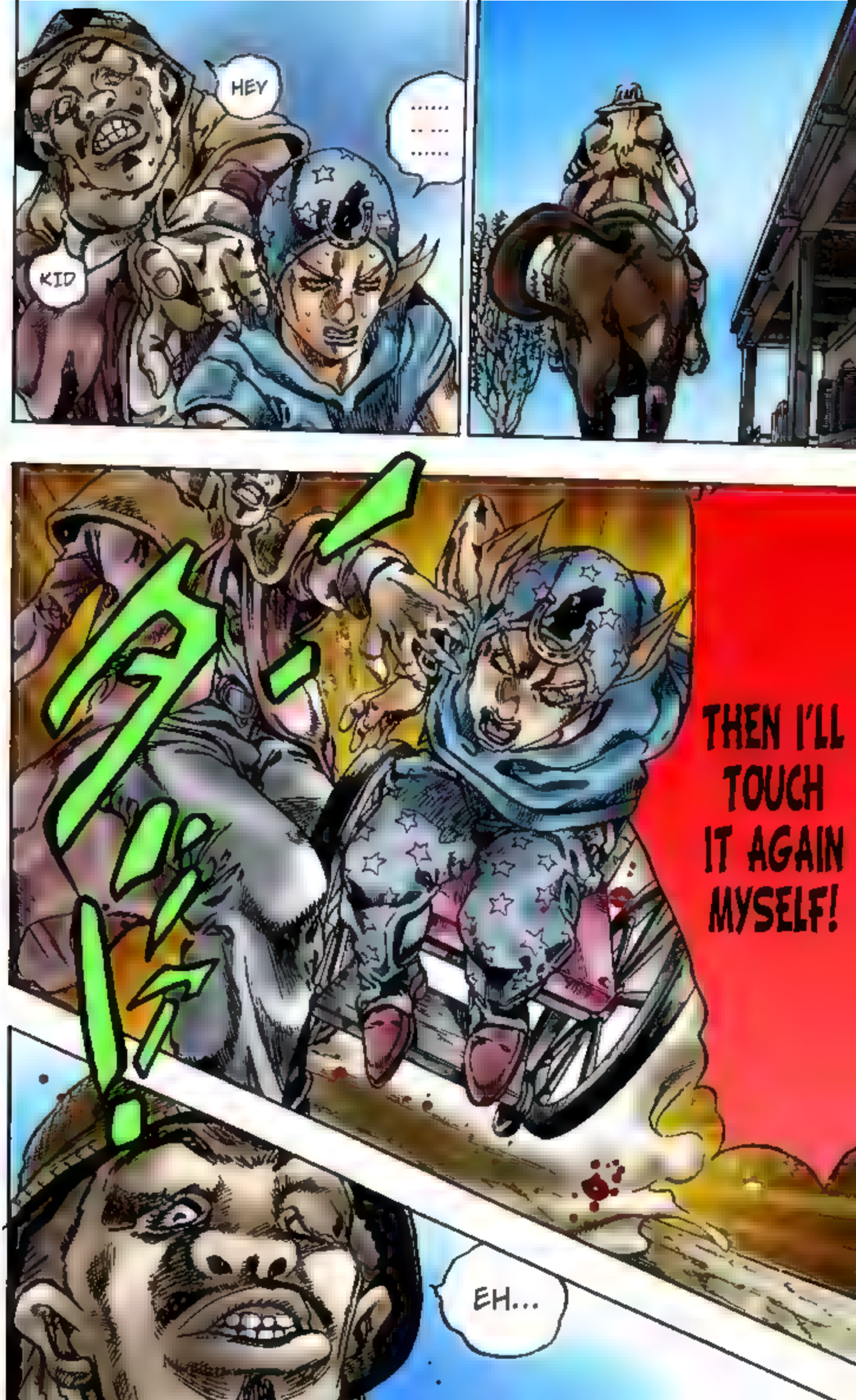
I NEED TO KNOW WHAT JUST HAPPENED TO ME!
I NEED TO KNOW! TELL ME!
W... WAIT!
MY LEGS... THAT NEVER MOVED A MILLI-METER...
WHAT THE HELL DID YOU SAY?
SHUT UP!
THE FIRST IS A SICKNESS CARRIED BY MOSQUITOS. THE SECOND GETTING KICKED BY A HORSE AND DYING.
DO YOU KNOW THE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH?
DO YOU PLAN ON CHANGING THE RANKING?
THE PUBLIC TOLD ME TO GIVE UP.
IN THEIR WORDS. . OR IN THEIR SILENCE ...
WHO IS THIS MAN...? WHY IS HE ON THIS BEACH?

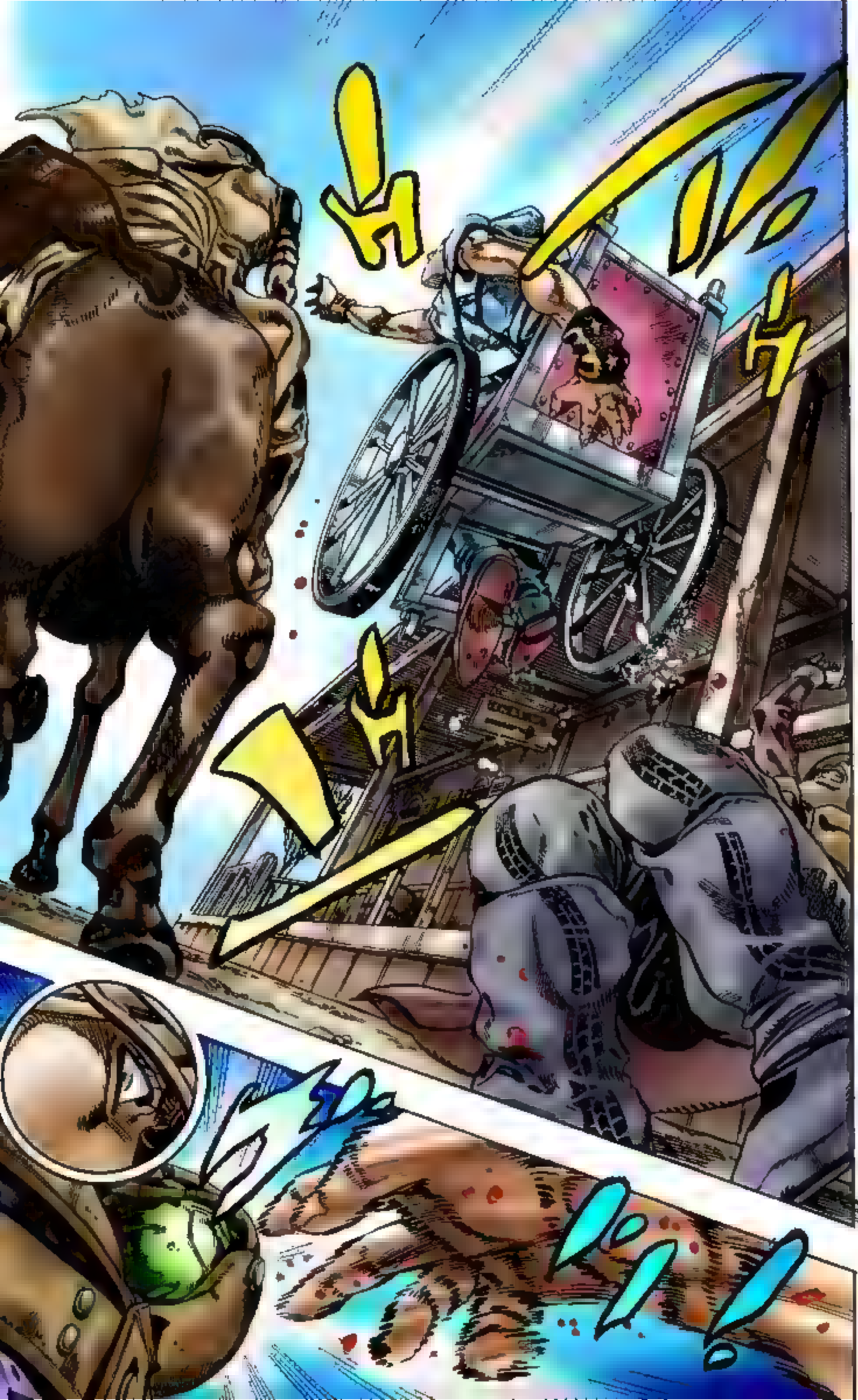

IT WAS JUST A BODILY REFLEX.
AND NOTHING MORE.


DO YOU THINK I COULD DO THAT AGAIN ...?!
REFLEX MY ASS! THAT WAS THE CAUSE AFTER ALL!
THAT 'STEEL BALL'... IT WAS SPINNING...

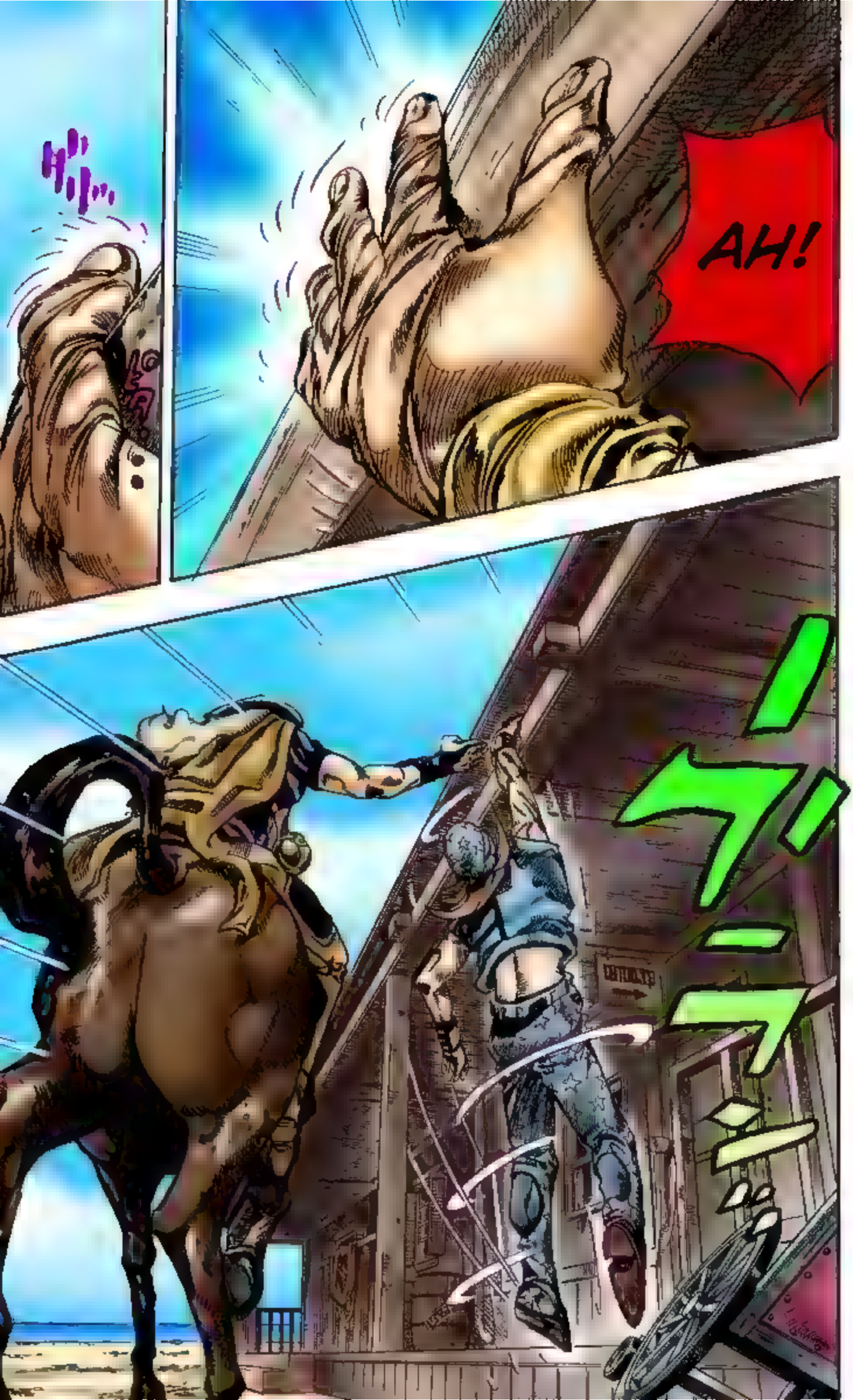

I'M DONE TALKING.
HIL
JUST SHOW ME ONE MORE TIME!
I'LL PAY YOU!
JUST ONE MORE TIME!

BUT YOU STANDING UP FROM THAT CHAIR WAS A COINCIDENCE.
DON'T GET ANY FOOLISH EXPECTATIONS.
I DON'T KNOW YOUR SITUATION...


HEY
KID
.....
.. ...
.....
THEN I'LL TOUCH IT AGAIN MYSELF!
EH...



FWIP

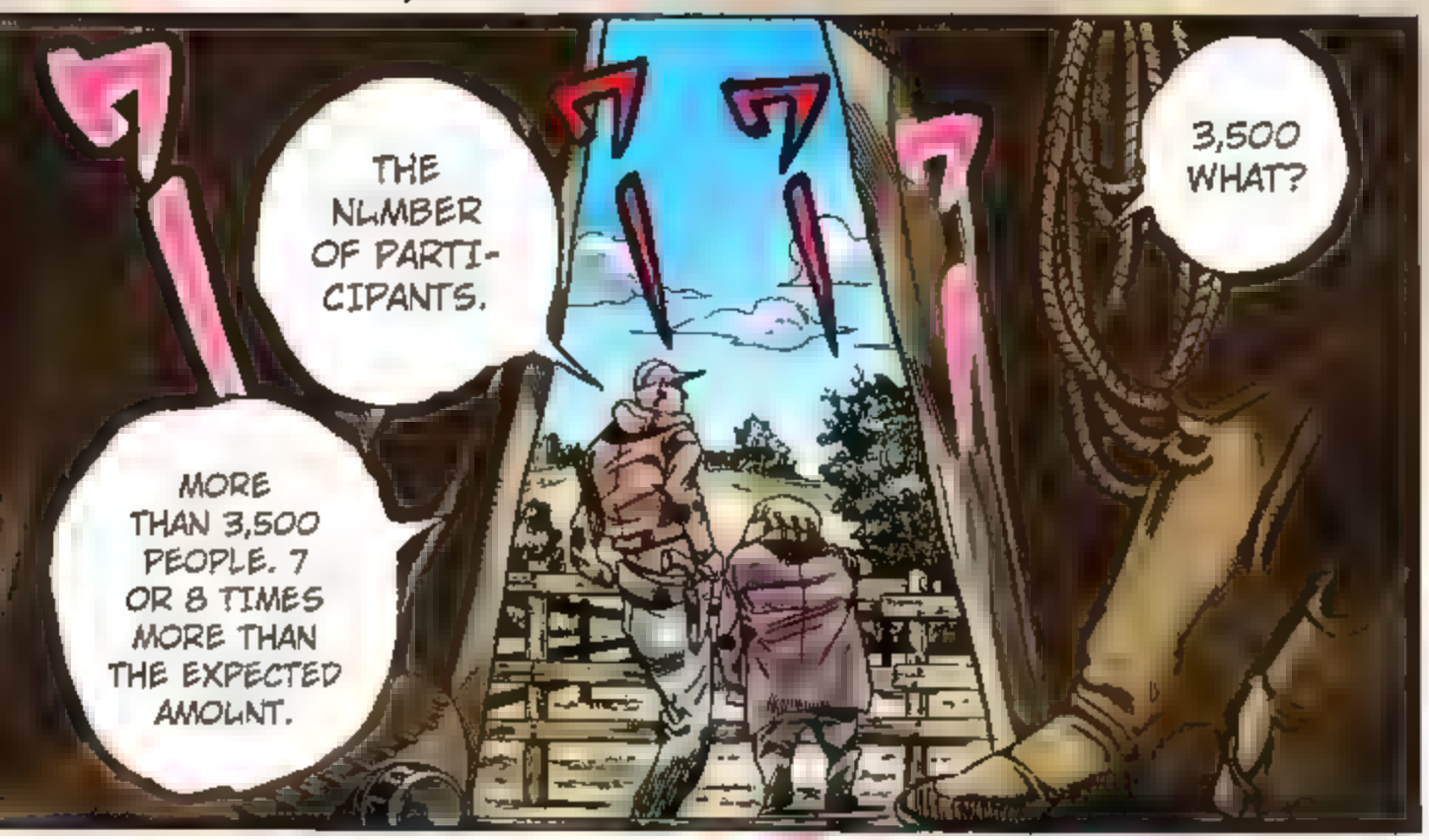

AH!

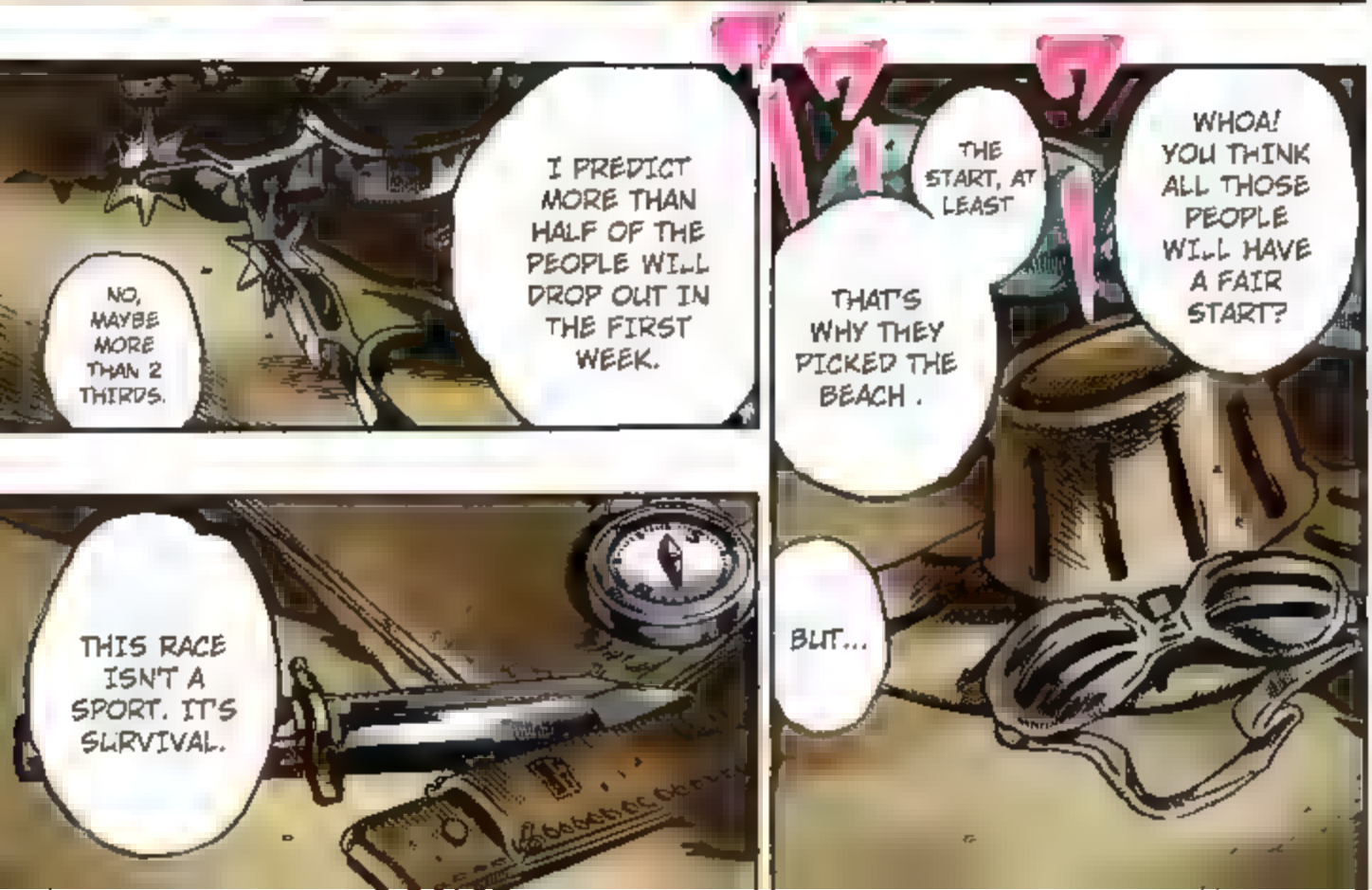
WHY AM I GRABBING THE RAFTER?
MY FINGERS
...
I'LL FIND OUT! I'LL FIGURE OUT THE TRUTH OF THAT 'SPIN'!
HOW COULD I BELIEVE THAT AFTER ALL THAT HAPPENED?!
...AT LEAST YOUR UPPER BODY DOES.
YOU DO HAVE VERY STRONG MUSCLES.
BEFORE I KNOCK YOU AND MAKE YOU FEEL BAD, I'LL COMPLIMENT YOU.
AND I'LL SAY THIS CLEARLY. THIS 'SPINNING STEEL' IS DEFINITELY MY WEAPON.
BUT IT WON'T MAKE PEOPLE LIKE YOU WALK AGAIN.
THE 'STEEL BALL RUN' IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.
YOU CAN'T EVEN GET ON A HORSE.
I WON'T STAY ON THIS BEACH, SINCE I'LL BE CROSSING THE CONTINENT

ARG
NGH
THE SUMMER OF 1890...
THE ONLY THING I COULD SAY...
A 'BEAUTY' WITHIN THE DARKNES...
I WAS DRAWN TO SOME-THING ON THIS BEACH.
THERE WAS A 'BEAUTY' THAT EXISTED ON THAT BEACH...
I'LL GET ON A HORSE AGAIN, AND I WILL RACE...
DAMMIT...
I'LL GET ON ALL RIGHT...
WILL THERE BE 'A LIGHT CALLED HOPE' HERE...?

#4 SEPTEMBER 25, 1890 - 3 HOURS TO START

Early Morning.
——September 25, 1890——
7:06 A.M.
The Steel Ball Run Race
starts in three hours.
"San Diego West Beach"


LOOKS LIKE THERE ARE MORE THAN 3,500.
3,500 WHAT?
THE NUMBER OF PARTI-CIPANTS.
MORE THAN 3,500 PEOPLE. 7 OR 8 TIMES MORE THAN THE EXPECTED AMOUNT.


I PREDICT MORE THAN HALF OF THE PEOPLE WILL DROP OUT IN THE FIRST WEEK.
NO, MAYBE MORE THAN 2 THIRDS.
WHOA! YOU THINK ALL THOSE PEOPLE WILL HAVE A FAIR START?
THE START, AT LEAST
THAT'S WHY THEY PICKED THE BEACH .
BUT...
THIS RACE ISN'T A SPORT. IT'S SURVIVAL.

#4 SEPTEMBER 25, 1890 - 3 HOURS TO START
IS IT A LITTLE TOO HEAVY?
Tooth Powder
Stem
can use leaves for that!"
ROPE
TEDDY BEAR
BLANKET
BUCKET
HORSE BRUSH
SADDLE
TOWEL
SOCKS
CUP
GLOVES
NEEDLE/ THREAD
PENCIL
BINOCS
SCISSORS
SPOON AND FORK
MATCHES
TOOTHBRUSH
WIRE
TOILET PAPER
TOOTH POWDER
MIRROR
MAGNI-FYING GLASS
KNIFE
CANTEEN
COMIC BOOK
CANDLES
MEDI-CINE
CANNED FOOD
TAPE
WATCH
COMPASS
MAP

ポン
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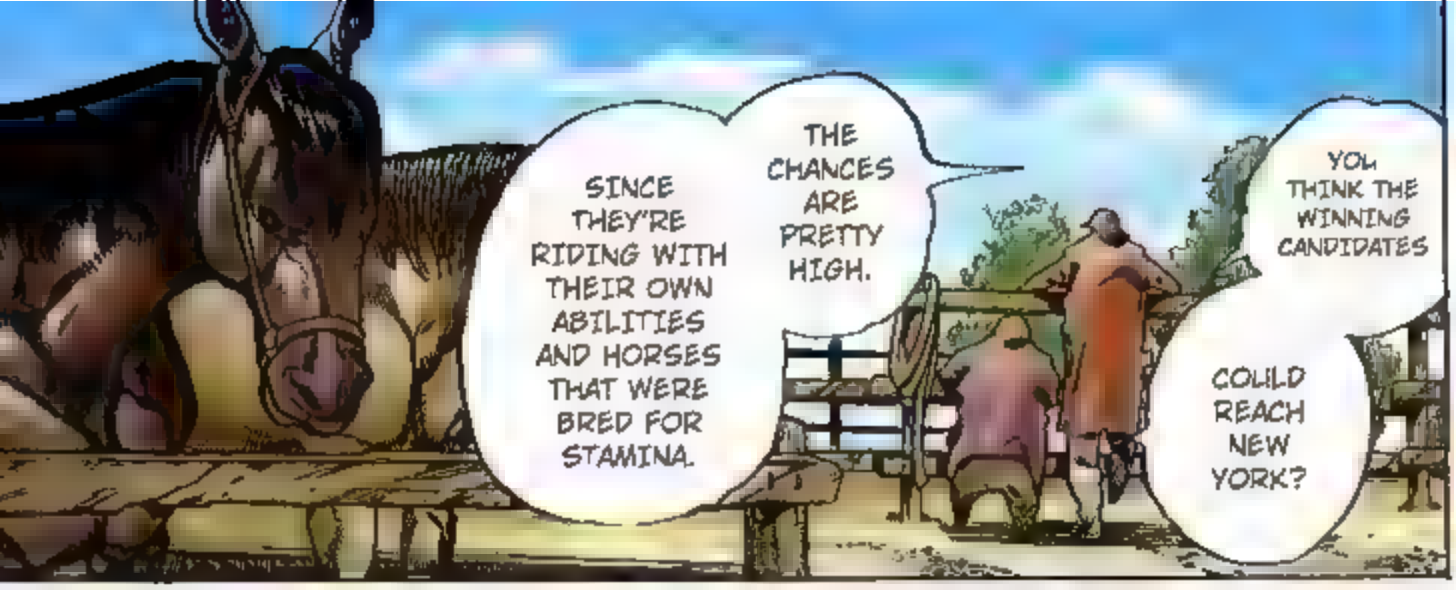
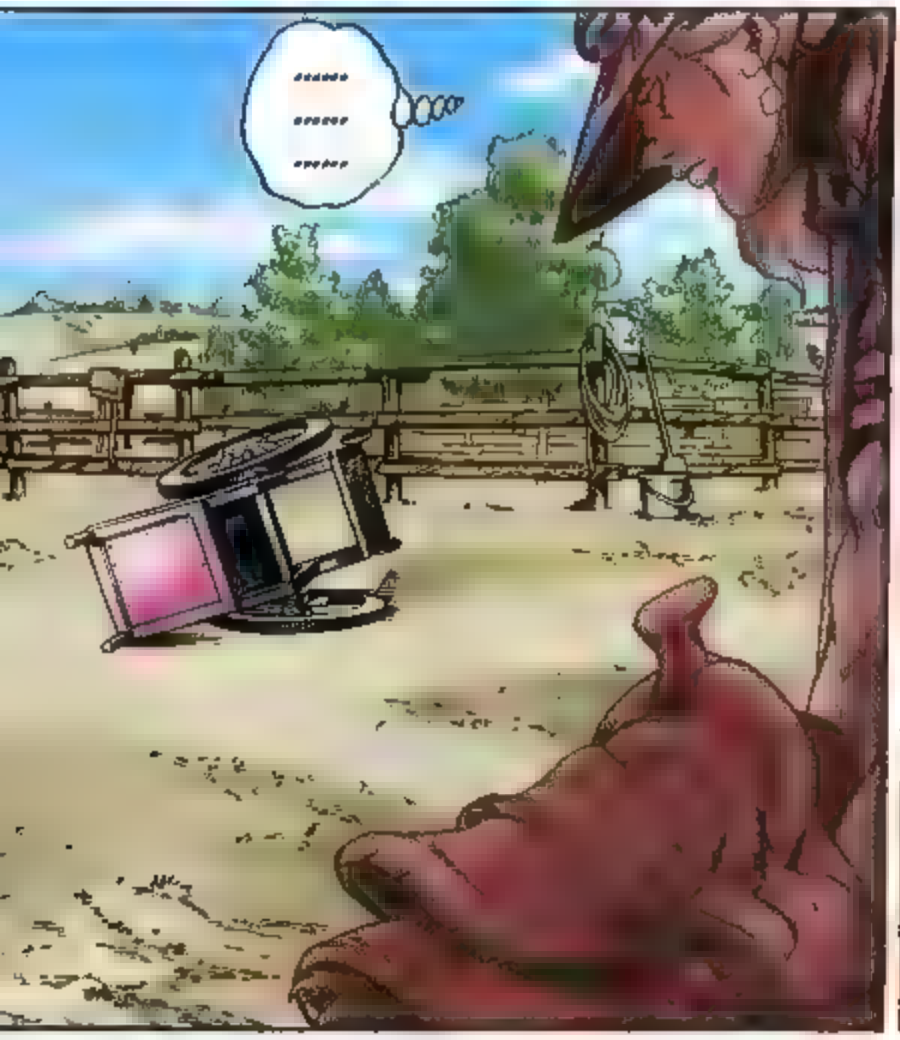
NO
I can use my knife
.....
.....
MAYBE TWO, THREE HUNDRED WILL BE LEFT
WHEN THEY PASS...
THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS, THERE'LL BE LESS THAN ONE TENTH LEFT


SINCE THEY'RE RIDING WITH THEIR OWN ABILITIES AND HORSES THAT WERE BRED FOR STAMINA.
THE CHANCES ARE PRETTY HIGH.
YOU THINK THE WINNING CANDIDATES COULD REACH NEW YORK?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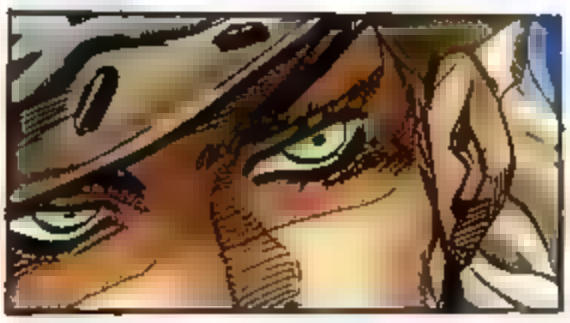
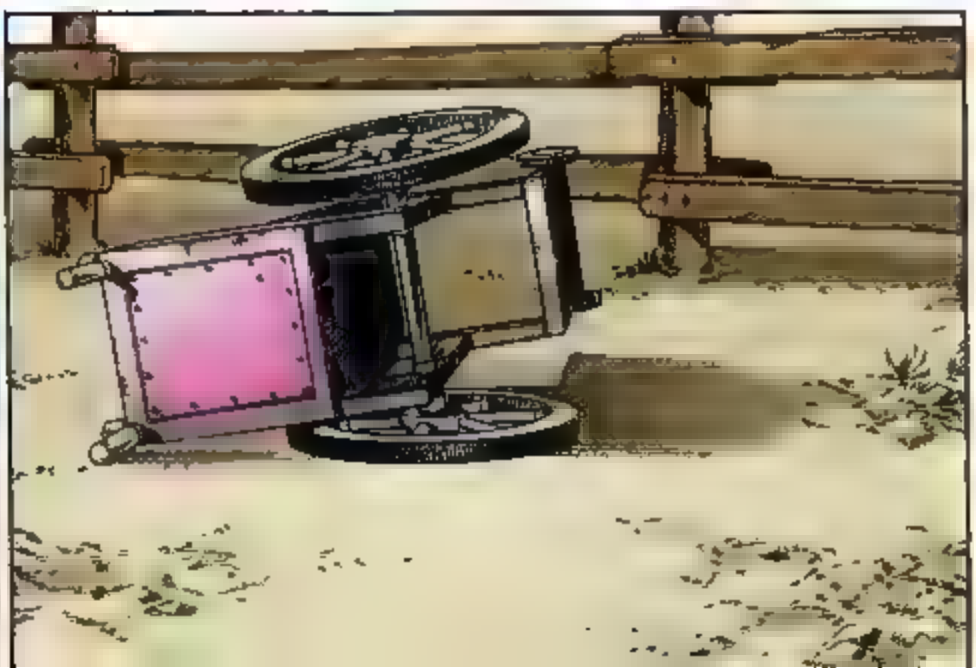
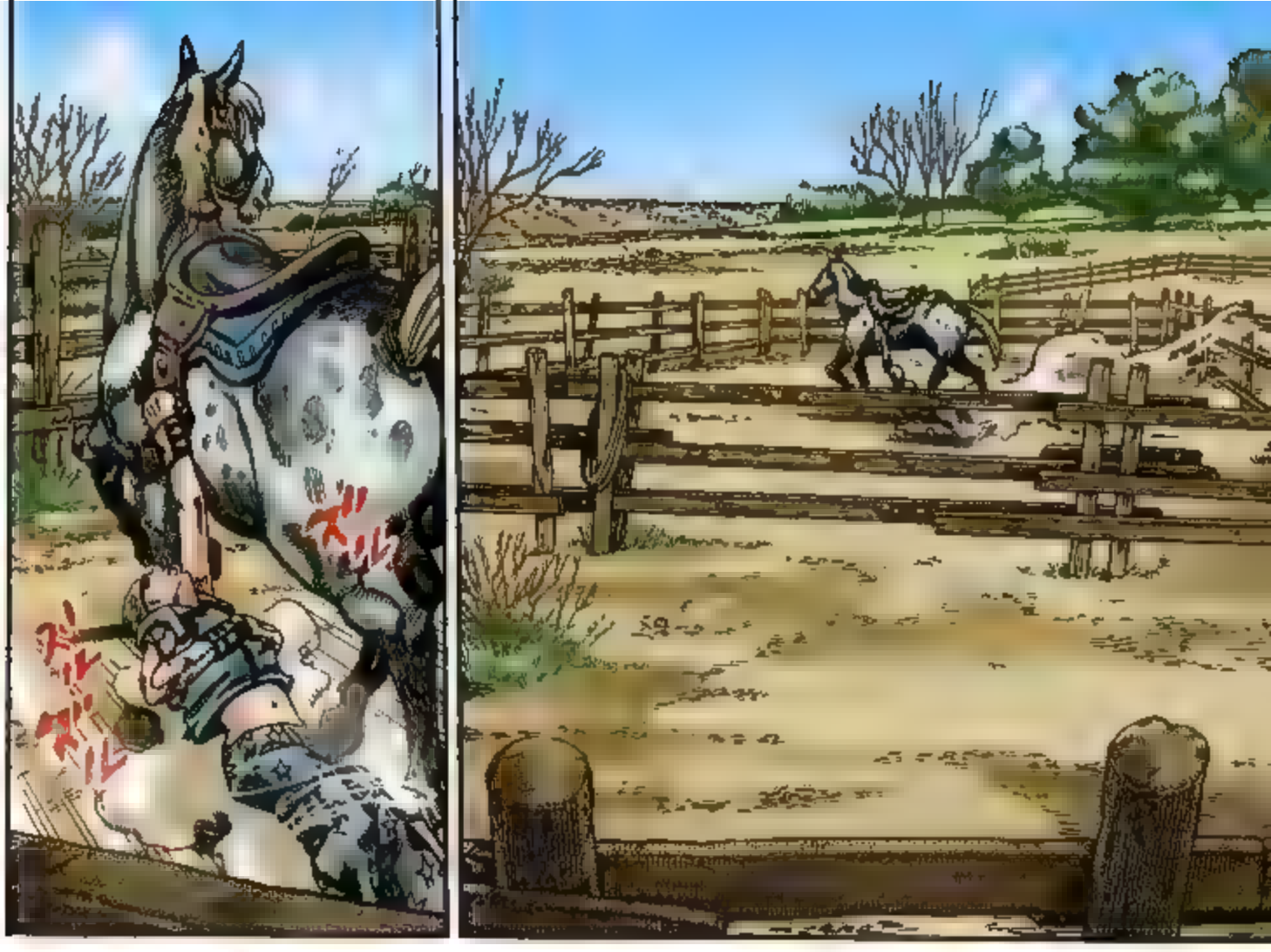


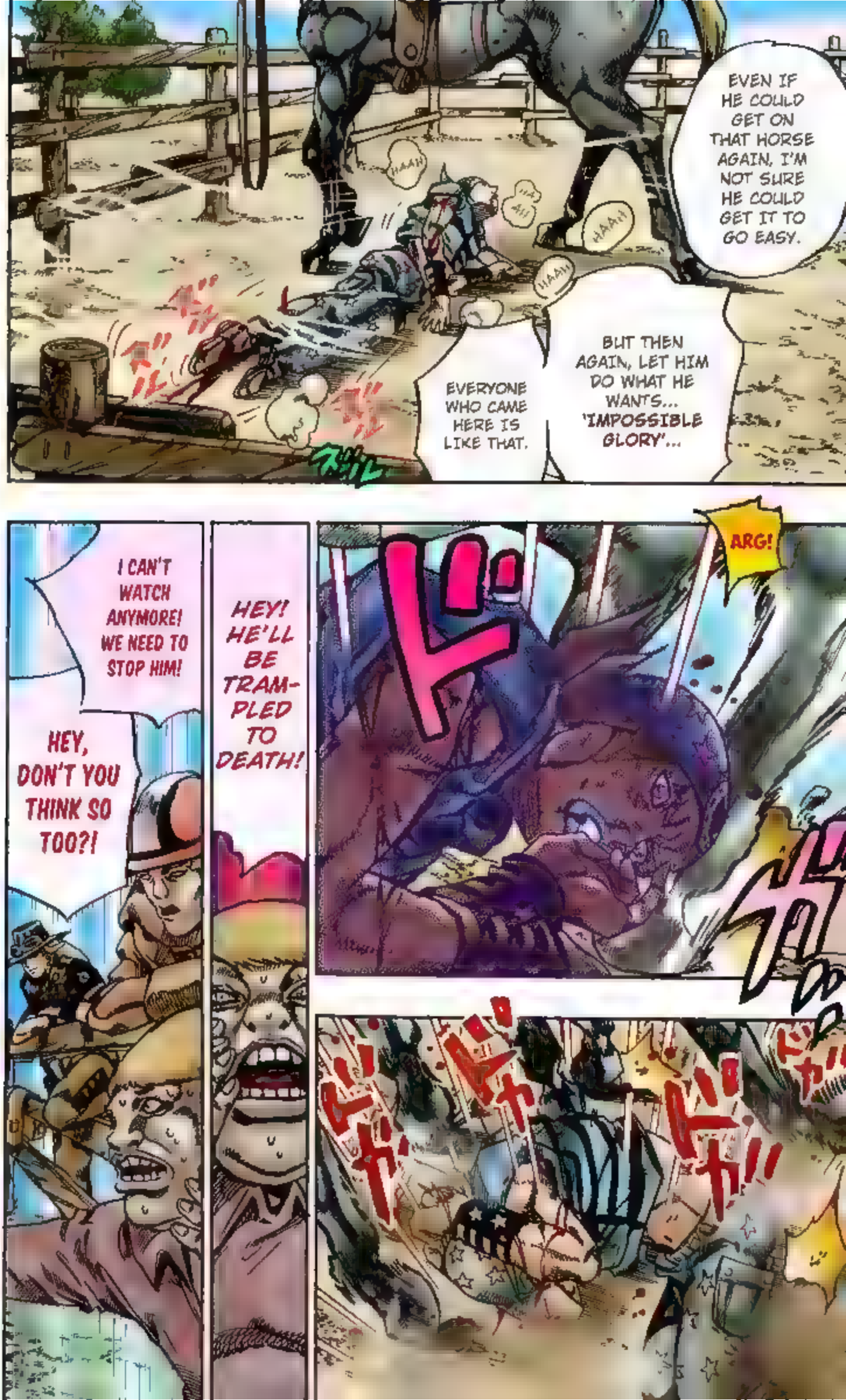




..THE HORSE HE'S GRABBING ON TO, IS THAT A..
GYAHAHA HAHA HAHA HAHA
HE'S PLANNING TO ENTER THE RACE IN THAT CONDITION?
THE GUY WHO WAS A FAMOUS JOCKEY, HE'S STILL GOING AT IT?
HEY, LOOK, IT'S HIM.
AFTER GETTING OFF THAT WHEELCHAIR, ALL DAY YESTERDAY AND ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT?
I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM.
HEY! HEY!

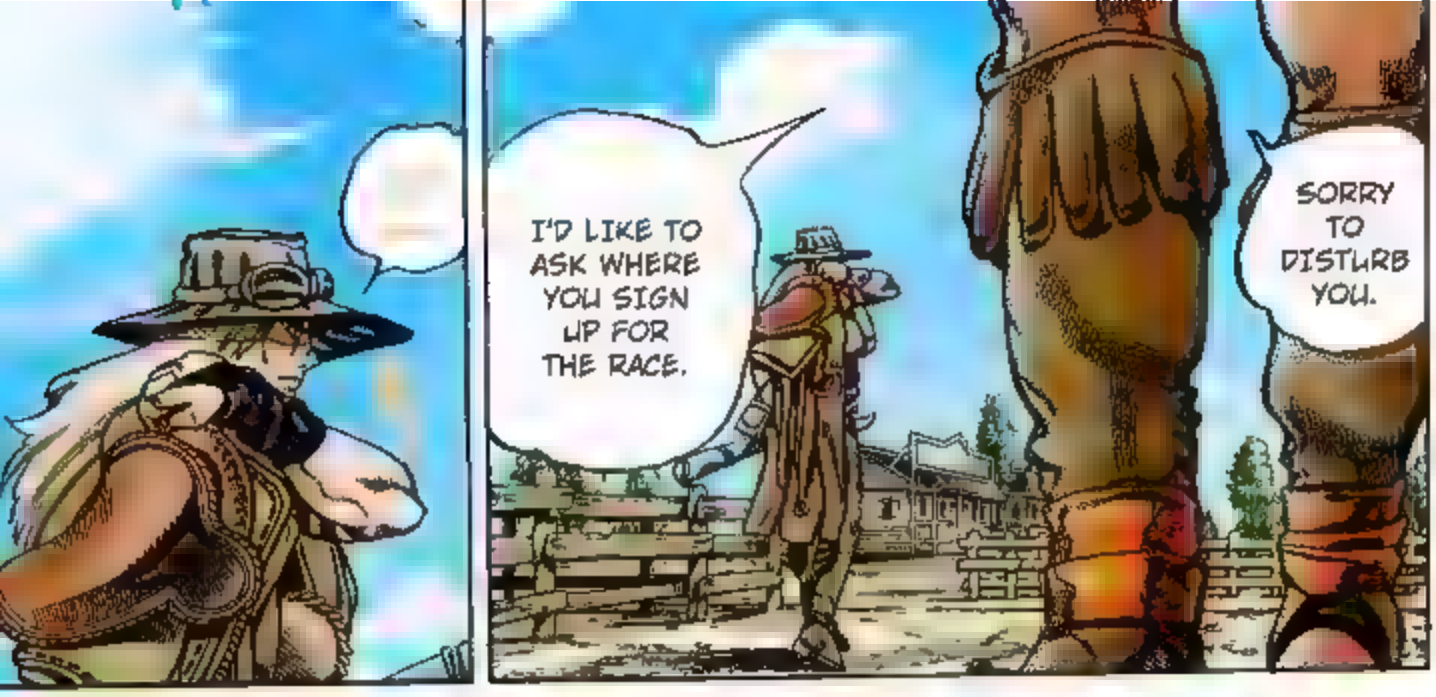
I DON'T KNOW IF HE'S DREAMING OF HIS FORMER GLORY,
SOMEBODY STOP HIM!
BUT HE'LL GET HURT!
"HE'LL GET HURT!" HE WAS ALREADY HURT LAST NIGHT
YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
LOOK AT HIS FEET!
HAAH
HAAH
HAAH
HAAH
HAAH
HAAH

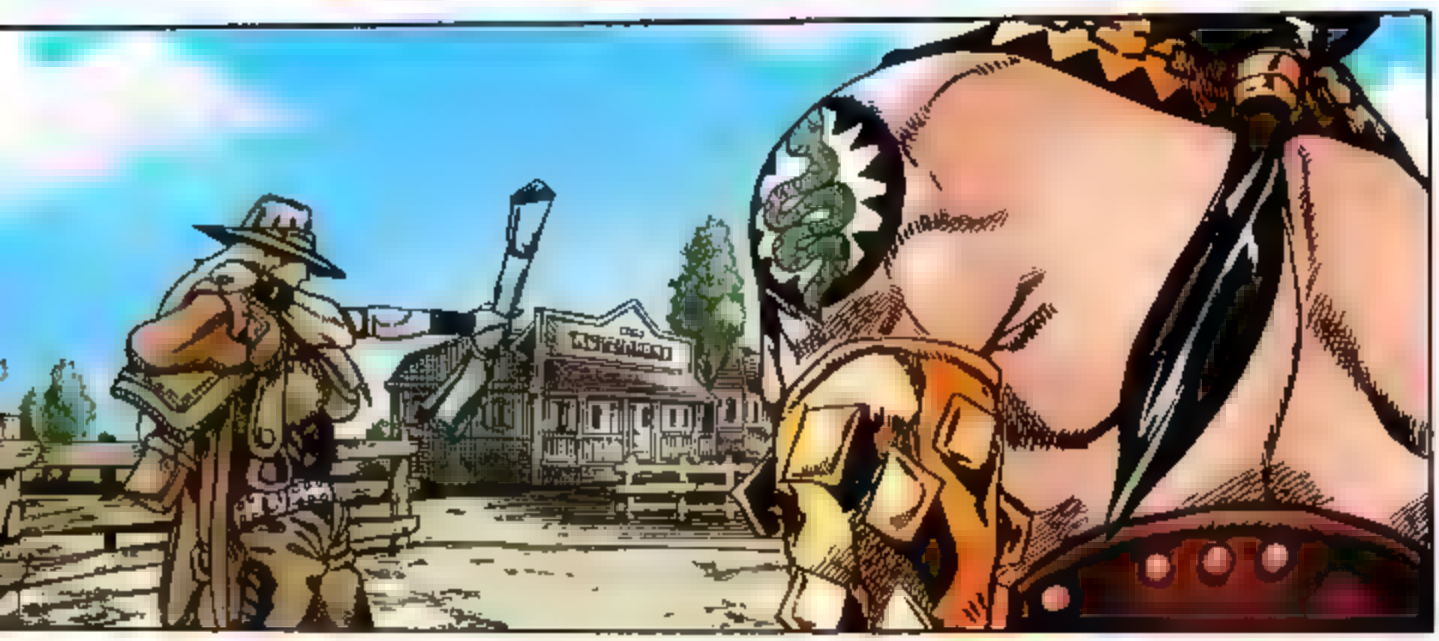
IT'S AN OLD, UNTAMABLE HORSE WITH A TWISTED PERSONALITY.
IF YOU TRY TO STOP HIM FROM GETTING ON THE HORSE, HE THREATENS TO SET HIMSELF ON FIRE AND COMMIT SUICIDE.
HE DOESN'T FEEL IT. NEVER FELT PAIN TO BEGIN WITH
A PIECE OF WOOD WENT IN HIS LEG.
HE'S INSANE
AND TO TOP IT OFF, HE WAS SOLD A 'DOBBIN' FROM A HORSE SELLER.


EVEN IF HE COULD GET ON THAT HORSE AGAIN, I'M NOT SURE HE COULD GET IT TO GO EASY.
BUT THEN AGAIN, LET HIM DO WHAT HE WANTS... 'IMPOSSIBLE GLORY'...
EVERYONE WHO CAME HERE IS LIKE THAT.
HAAH
HAAH
HAAH
I CAN'T WATCH ANYMORE! WE NEED TO STOP HIM!
HEY, DON'T YOU THINK SO TOO?!
HEY! HE'LL BE TRAMPLED TO DEATH!
ARG!

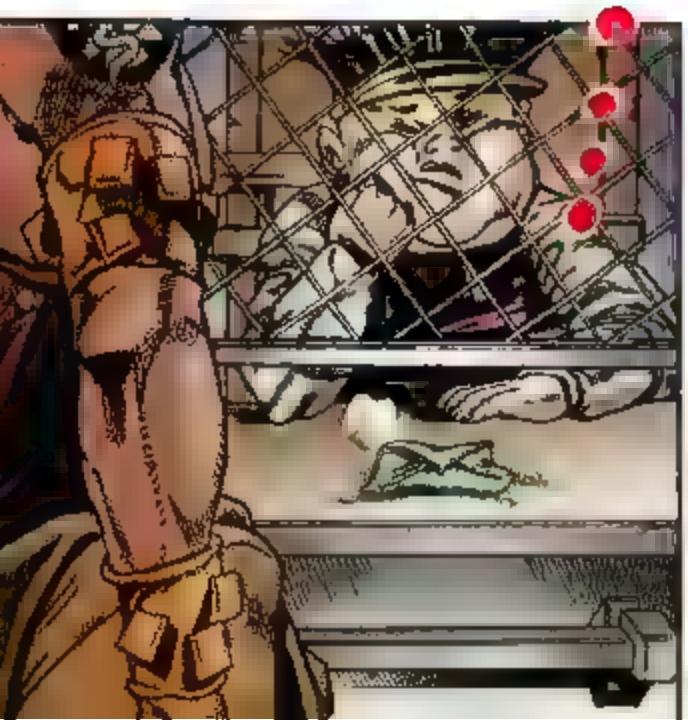
I WAS JUST LOOKING, SINCE HE WAS IN MY SIGHT.
ARE YOU ASKING FOR MY OPINION?
BUT IF I WERE TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT IT...
HE'LL NEVER RIDE IT... NOT LIKE THAT.

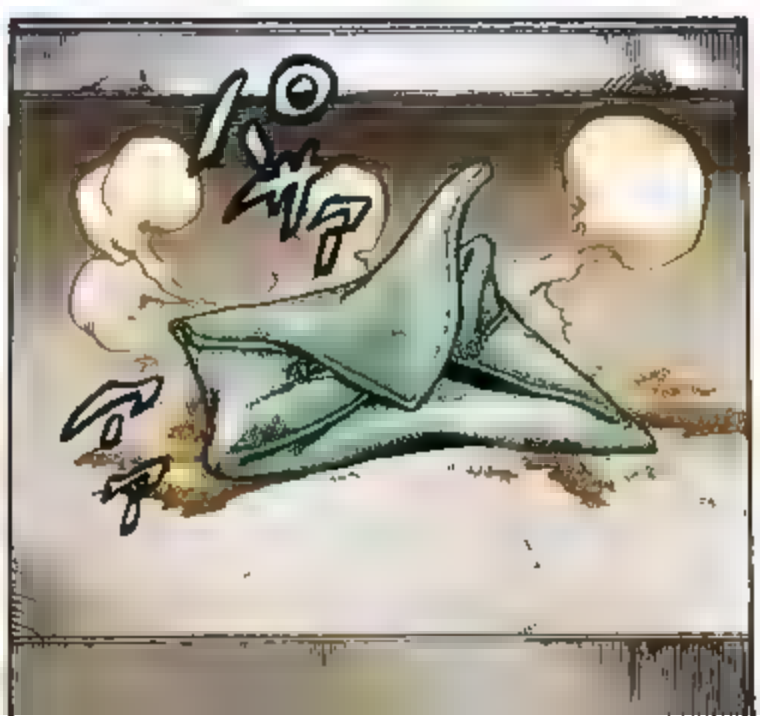
IF HE COULD RIDE IT, HE'D GO BEYOND ANY HUMAN.
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND...
HAAH HAAH
HAAH
HAAH
HAAH

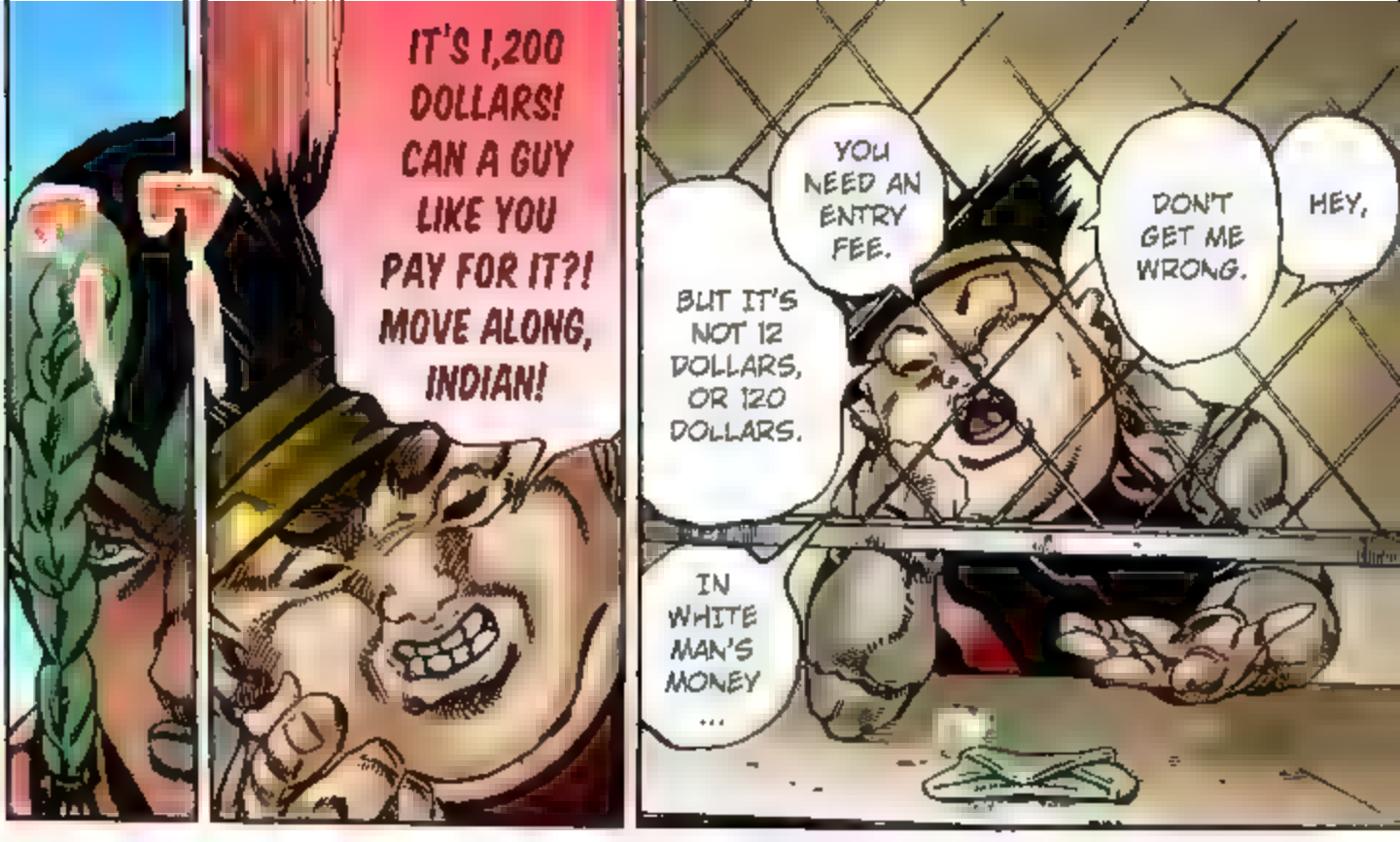

I'D LIKE TO ASK WHERE YOU SIGN UP FOR THE RACE.
SORRY TO DISTURB YOU.

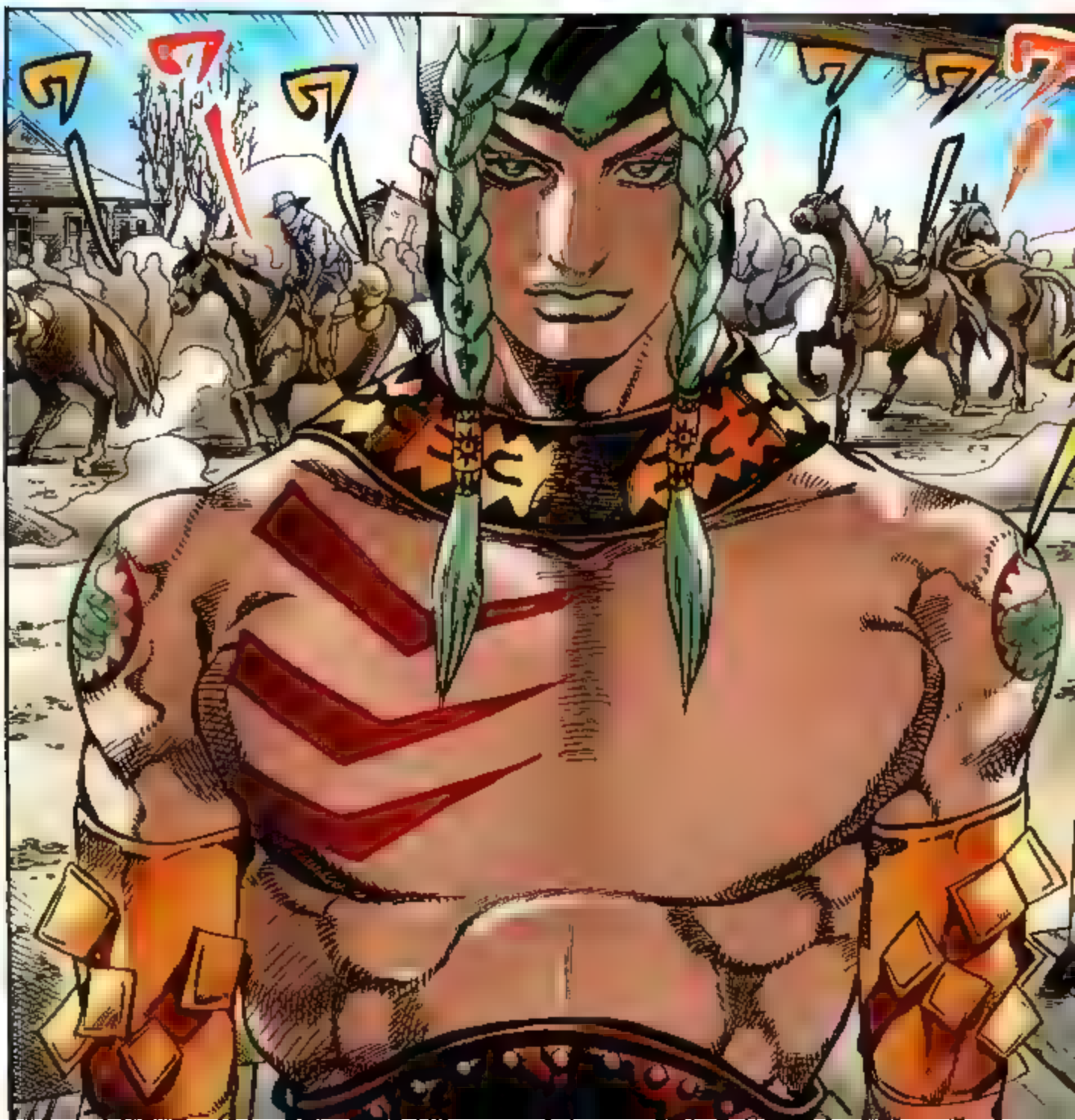


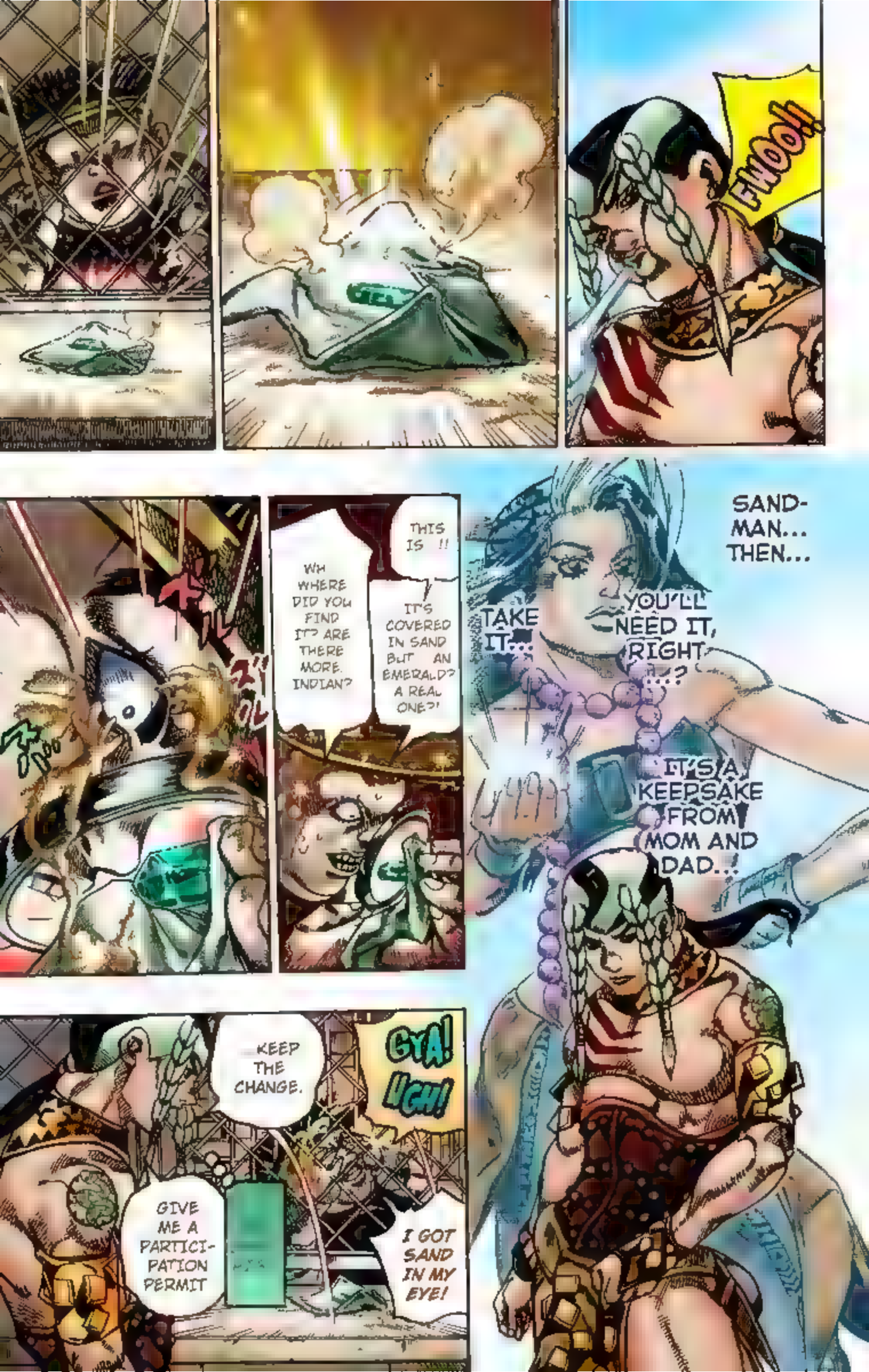
IT'S MY PLEASURE
THANKS.



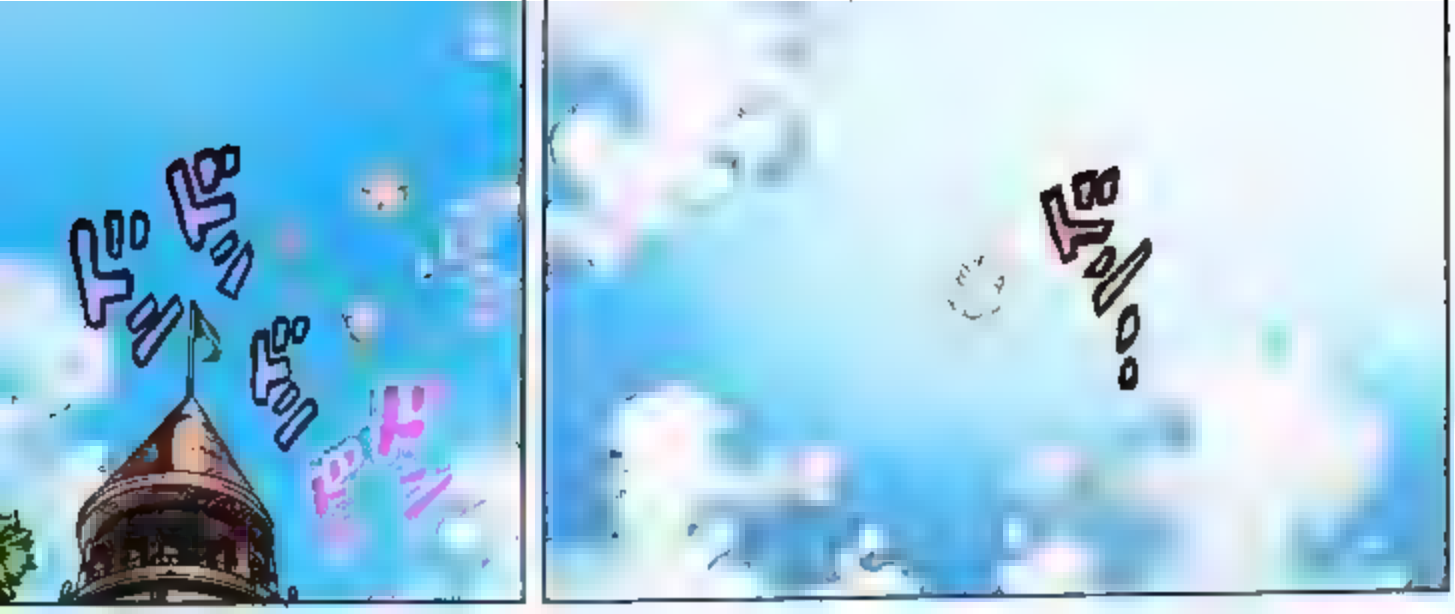



IT'S 1,200 DOLLARS! CAN A GUY LIKE YOU PAY FOR IT?! MOVE ALONG, INDIAN!
HEY,
DON'T GET ME WRONG.
YOU NEED AN ENTRY FEE.
BUT IT'S NOT 12 DOLLARS, OR 120 DOLLARS.
IN WHITE MAN'S MONEY ...




FWOOH!
GEL
THIS IS !!
IT'S COVERED IN SAND BUT AN EMERALD? A REAL ONE?!
WH WHERE DID YOU FIND IT? ARE THERE MORE INDIAN?
SAND-MAN... THEN...
TAKE IT...
YOU'LL NEED IT, RIGHT...?
IT'S A KEEPSAKE FROM MOM AND DAD...!
GYA!
UGH!
I GOT SAND IN MY EYE!
KEEP THE CHANGE.
GIVE ME A PARTICI-PATION PERMIT

I WILL CROSS THE CONTINENT WITH MY FEET ALONE.
YOU KNOW THE STARTING TIME?
TH THIS IS YOUR PERMIT AND NUMBER
AH
MUH.
AND WE'LL TAKE YOUR HORSE'S NOSEPRINT BEFORE THE START
I WON'T NEED THAT.

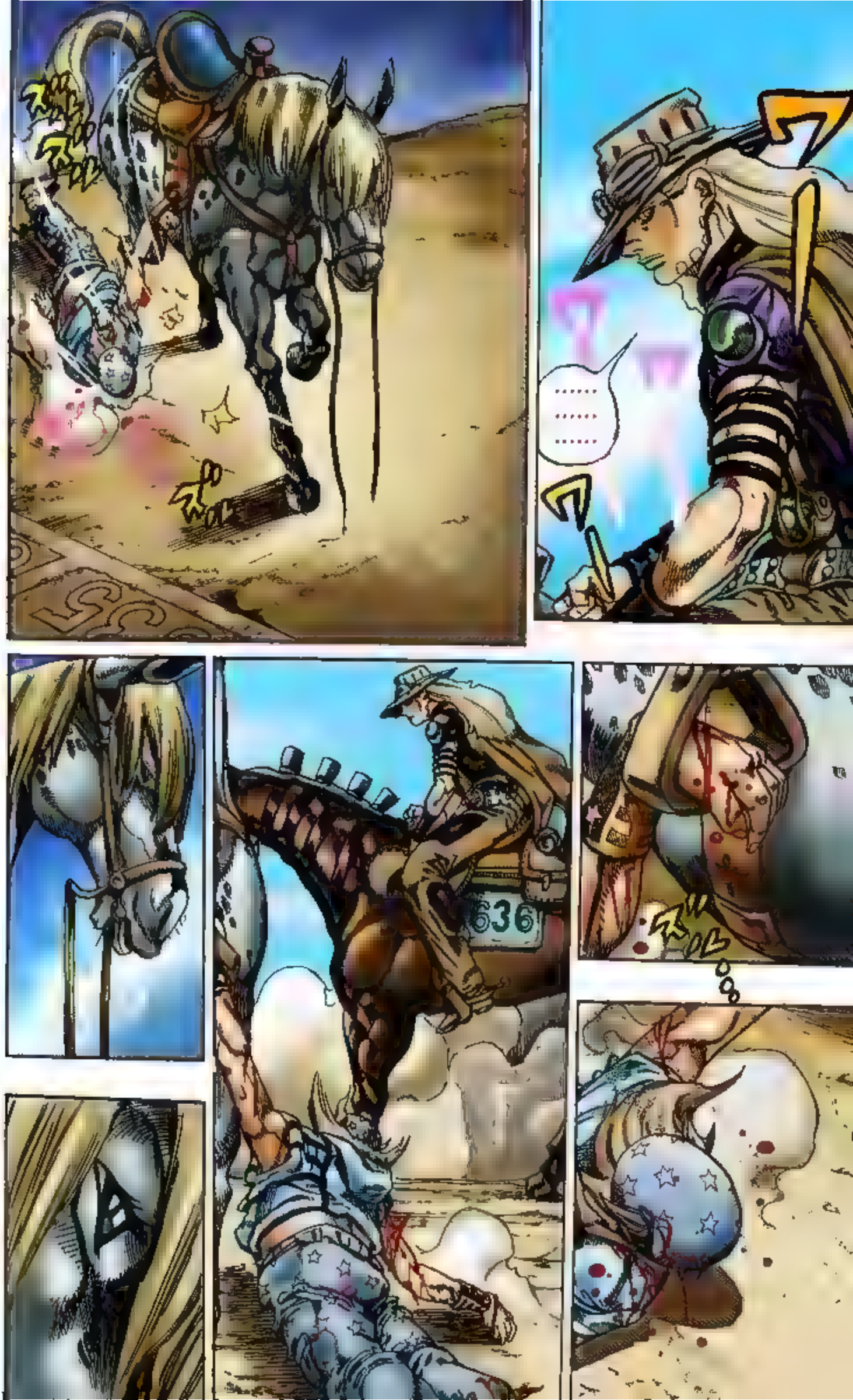


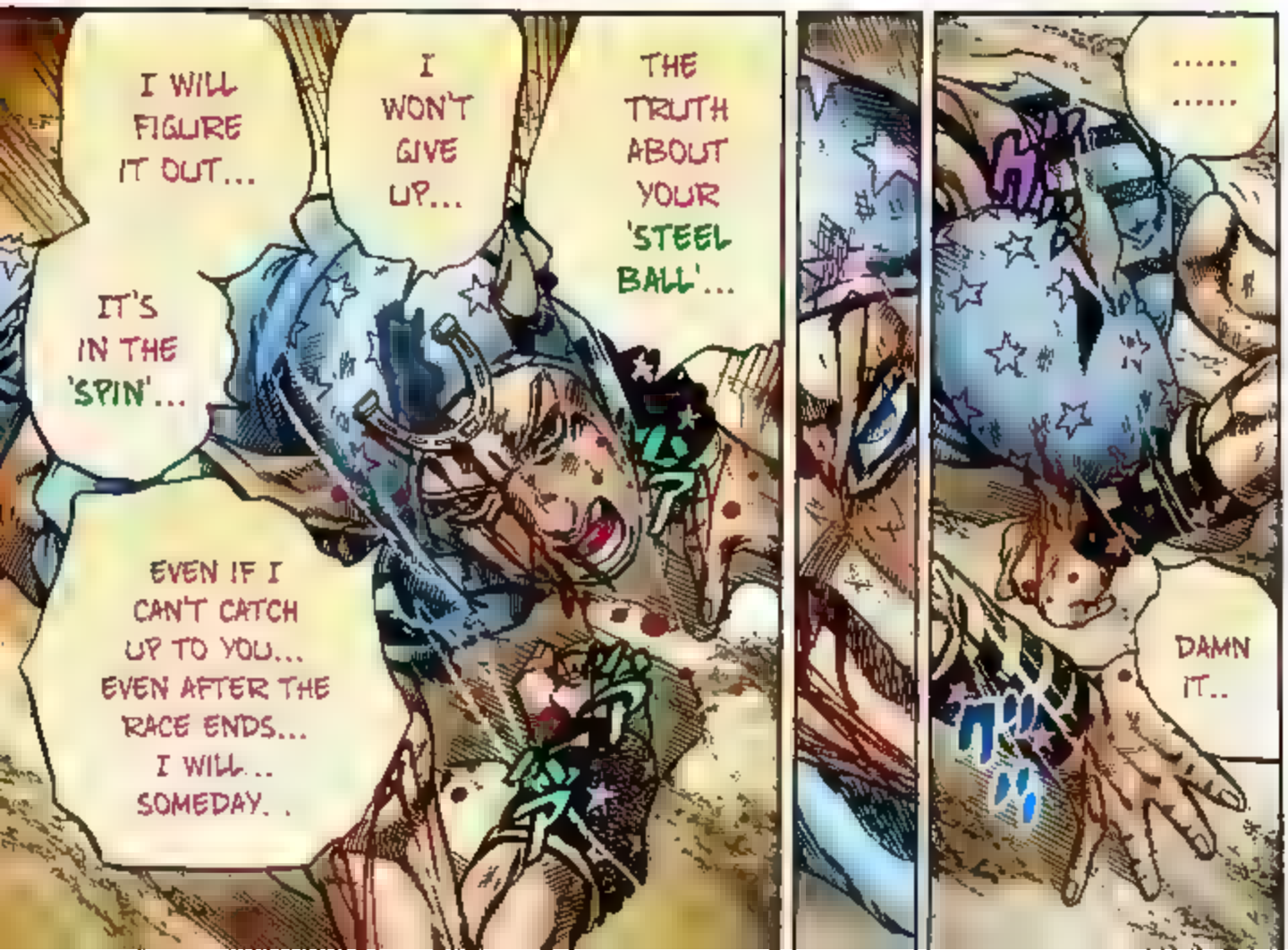
Morning
9:30 AM
30 minutes to start.

ATTENTION ALL PARTI-CIPANTS.
EACH OF YOUR NUMBERS IS ALSO YOUR STARTING GRID NUMBER..
FOR FAIRNESS PLEASE BE AT YOUR CORRE-SPONDING STARTING GRID BY 2 MINUTES TO 10 A.M.
DURING THIS 2 MINUTES BETWEEN 9:58 AND 10 A.M ANY PARTICIPANTS WHO DID NOT LINE UP . OR LEFT THEIR GRID
WILL BE JUDGED AS A FALSE START AND WILL BE PENALIZED, SO PLEASE BE CAREFUL
STEEL
RACE
AND NOW. AFTER THE RACE MASCOT, 'MINI HORSE MARCH' AND THE BAND PERFOMANCE
THERE WILL BE AN OPENING CEREMONIAL SPEECH BY THE RACE DIRECTOR AND SPONSOR OF THE 'STEEL BALL RUN' RACE, MR STEPHEN STEEL

WELL, I THINK THOSE COMMENTS ...
Don't you think so?
AAAH~~~
Broke the ice
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE SAID IT
PFFT!
GAH!
CLAP
CLAP
THIS WILL BE THE "SACRED ICE" OF THE 'STEEL BALL RUN' RACE...! AND OUR BURNING DESIRES WILL MELT THE ICE!
STEEL BALL RUN RACE
STEEL BALL RUN RACE
STEEL BALL RUN RACE
THIS WILL BE TRANSPORTED TO NEW YORK VIA RAILROAD AND HAS BEEN CALCULATED TO MELT WHEN YOU REACH THE FINISH LINE!
THE SYMBOL OF FAIR FIGHT AND MOVING FORWARD!
THIS ICE...
CAME FROM A PLACE CALLED THE SOUTH POLE, WHICH HAS NO NATION.
WE OPENED A HOLE IN THIS ICE AND PLACED THE CHAMPI-ONSHIP TROPHY INSIDE.
ACCOR-DING TO SCIENT-ISTS, IT FROZE 300 MILLION YEARS AGO.

SAN DIEGO! NEW YORK!
SAN DIEGO! NEW YORK!
SAN DIEGO! NEW YORK!
SAN DIEGO! NEW YORK!
SAN DIEGO! NEW YORK!
ONLY 3 MINUTES LEFT TO ENTER THE STARTING GRID! PLEASE LINE UP IN THE GRID WITH YOUR NUMBER
IT'S DOWN TO THE FINAL 5 MINUTES TO START TIME!
AND THERE'S DOT HAN FROM MONGOLIA!
SAN DIEGO! NEW YORK!
SAN DIEGO! NEW YORK!
HE'S REALLY LOST IT AFTER ALL
PATHETIC.
IT'S HIM.
HEY, LOOK
THE SAHARAN NOMAD, URMD AVDOL, IS ENTERING ON CAMEL-BACK
SAN DIEGO! NEW YORK!
SAN DIEGO! NEW YORK!
THERE'S THE COWBOY, MOUNTAIN TIM!
THE WINNING CANDIDATES ARE NOW ENTERING!
SAN DIEGO! NEW YORK!
FROM THE BRITISH RACING WORLD, THE ARISTOCRAT DIEGO BRANDO CAN BE SEEN!
SAN DIEGO! NEW YORK!

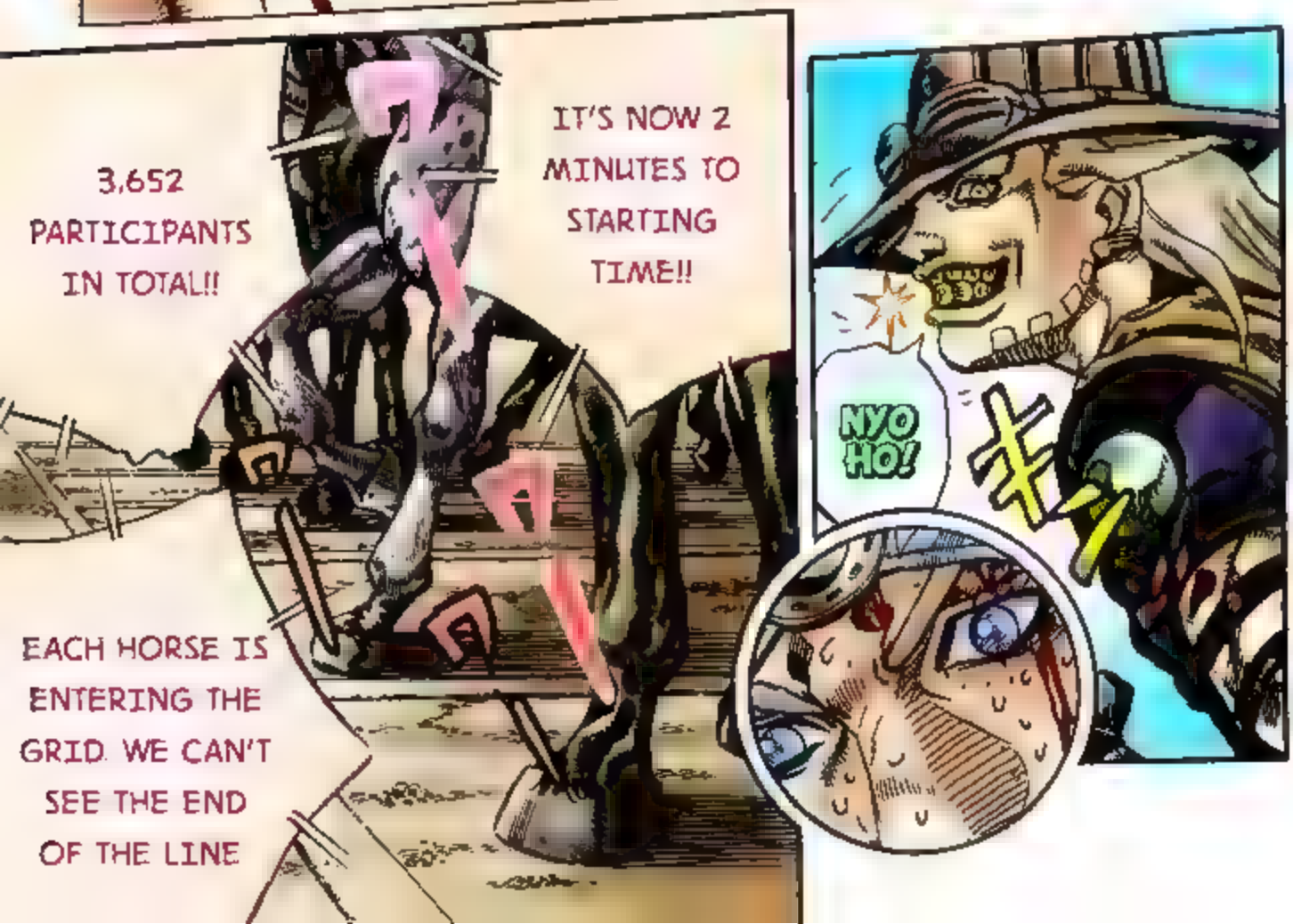



I WILL FIGURE IT OUT...
I WON'T GIVE UP...
THE TRUTH ABOUT YOUR 'STEEL BALL'...
IT'S IN THE 'SPIN'...
EVEN IF I CAN'T CATCH UP TO YOU... EVEN AFTER THE RACE ENDS... I WILL... SOMEDAY...
.....
.....
DAMN IT..

CHOOSING THAT HORSE...
WAS CORRECT.
I'LL GIVE YOU A HINT.
SINCE I'M INTERESTED IN YOU,
IN THIS KIND OF RACE...
THEY DON'T CHARGE INTO DANGEROUS TERRITORY ON IMPULSE AND SPRAIN THEIR LEGS.
OLD HORSES HAVE EXPER-IENCE...
UNLIKE THE YOUNG ONES, WHO ARE ALL ABOUT POWER...

IF YOU HAVE THE WILL TO GET ON THE HORSE, WHY DON'T YOU?
YOU'VE ALREADY FOUND THE ANSWER.
Ro...

.....
...EH?


3,652 PARTICIPANTS IN TOTAL!!
IT'S NOW 2 MINUTES TO STARTING TIME!!
EACH HORSE IS ENTERING THE GRID. WE CAN'T SEE THE END OF THE LINE
NYO HO!

AGAIN...
LICK MY FACE.. MY HORSE...
AGAIN .. LICK. .
SPIN.
IT'S LIKE A WHOLE CITY.
ALL ARE LINED ALONG THE BEACH! WHAT AN OVER-WHELMING SCENE!
THIS WILL MOVE ALONG THE HORIZON. .!! AND BEYOND THE WESTERLIES.. !
THE EVENT OF THE CENTURY IS JUST ABOUT TO START!

THE 'STEEL BALL RUN' BEGINS NOW!!
IT'S ALL IN THE 'SPIN'! I WANT TO KNOW MORE... MORE ABOUT THE 'STEEL BALL'...
THE 'SPIN' ...
ALL HOPE...

#5
1st. STAGE
15,000 METERS
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN FROM YOUR RESPECTIVE FIELDS...
IF YOU PLEASE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO FOLLOW THE RACE BY RIDING WITH THE JOURNALISTS AND THE JUDGES...
...IN THAT TRAIN OVER THERE?
WE HAVE PROVIDED SERVICES SUCH AS TEA, WINE, AND DINING IN THE COACHES.
OH...
HERE ARE SOME BINOC-ULARS.
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO USE THEM.

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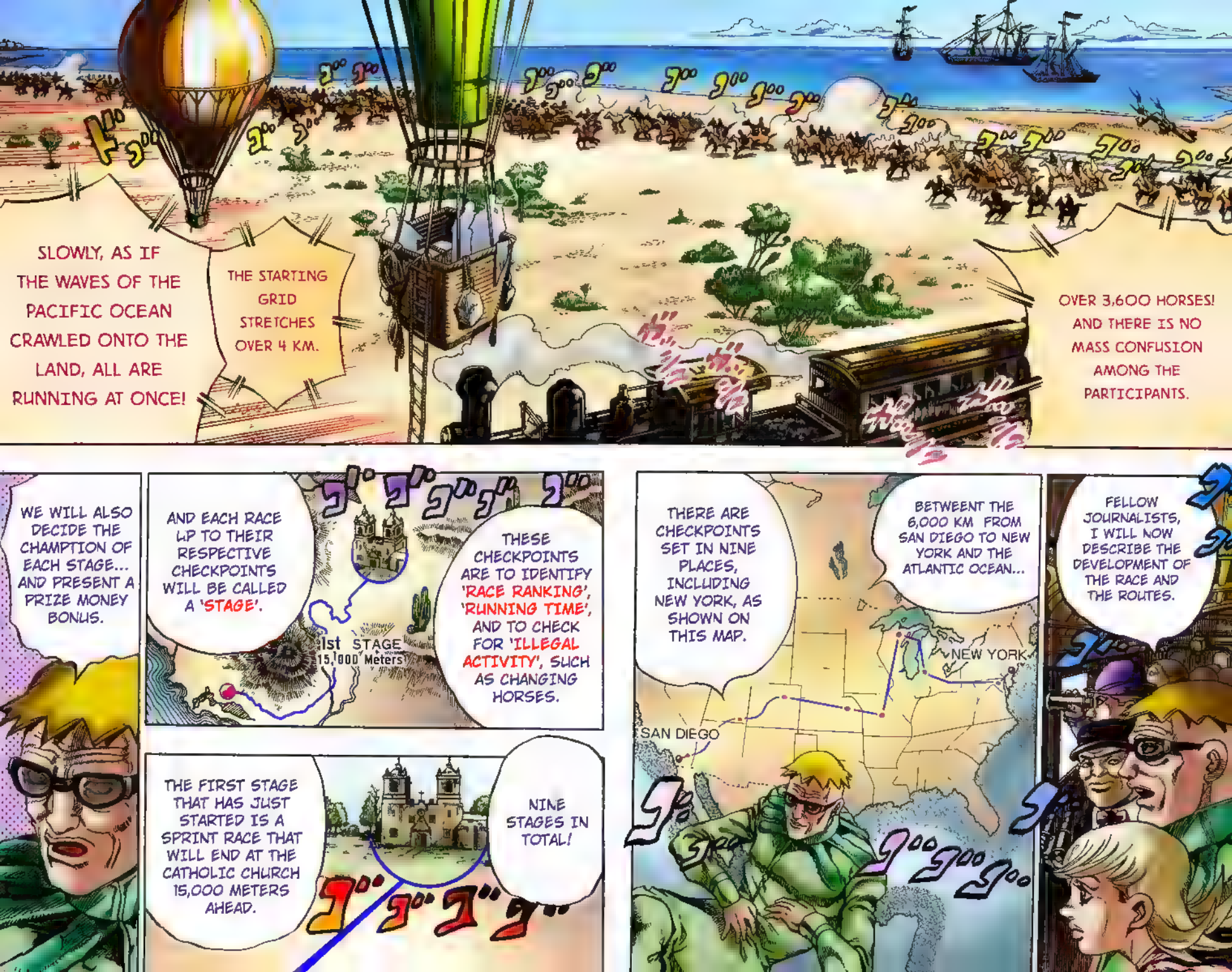
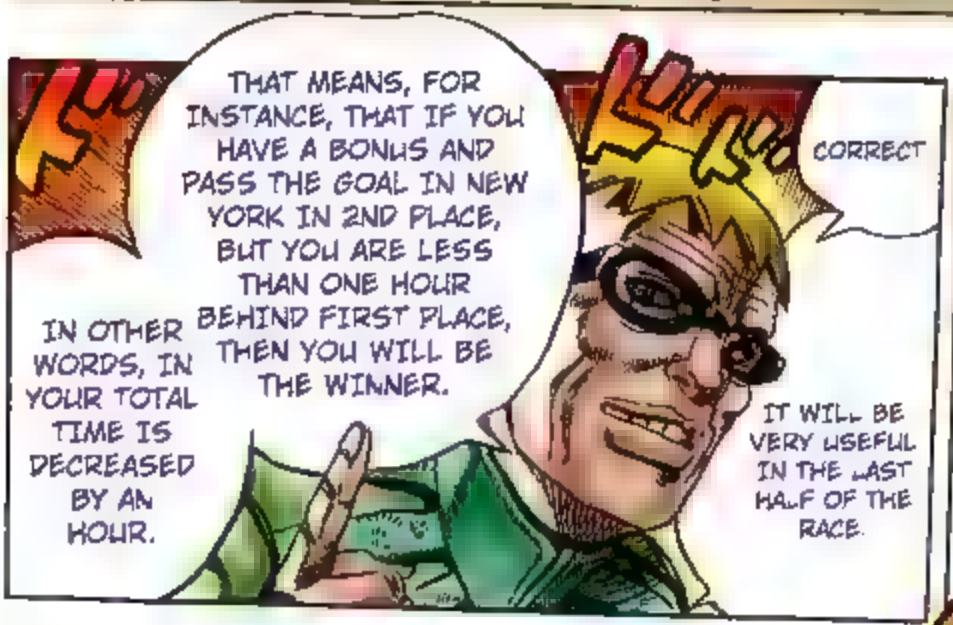
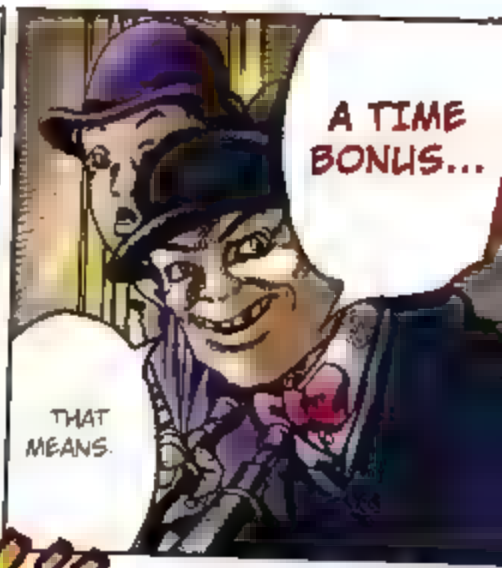
10 A.M., SEPTEMBER 25TH, 1890. THE TRANS-NORTH AMERICAN 'STEEL BALL RUN' HAS FINALLY BEGUN!
THE FIREWORKS ARE UP! THST'S THE STARTING SIGNAL!

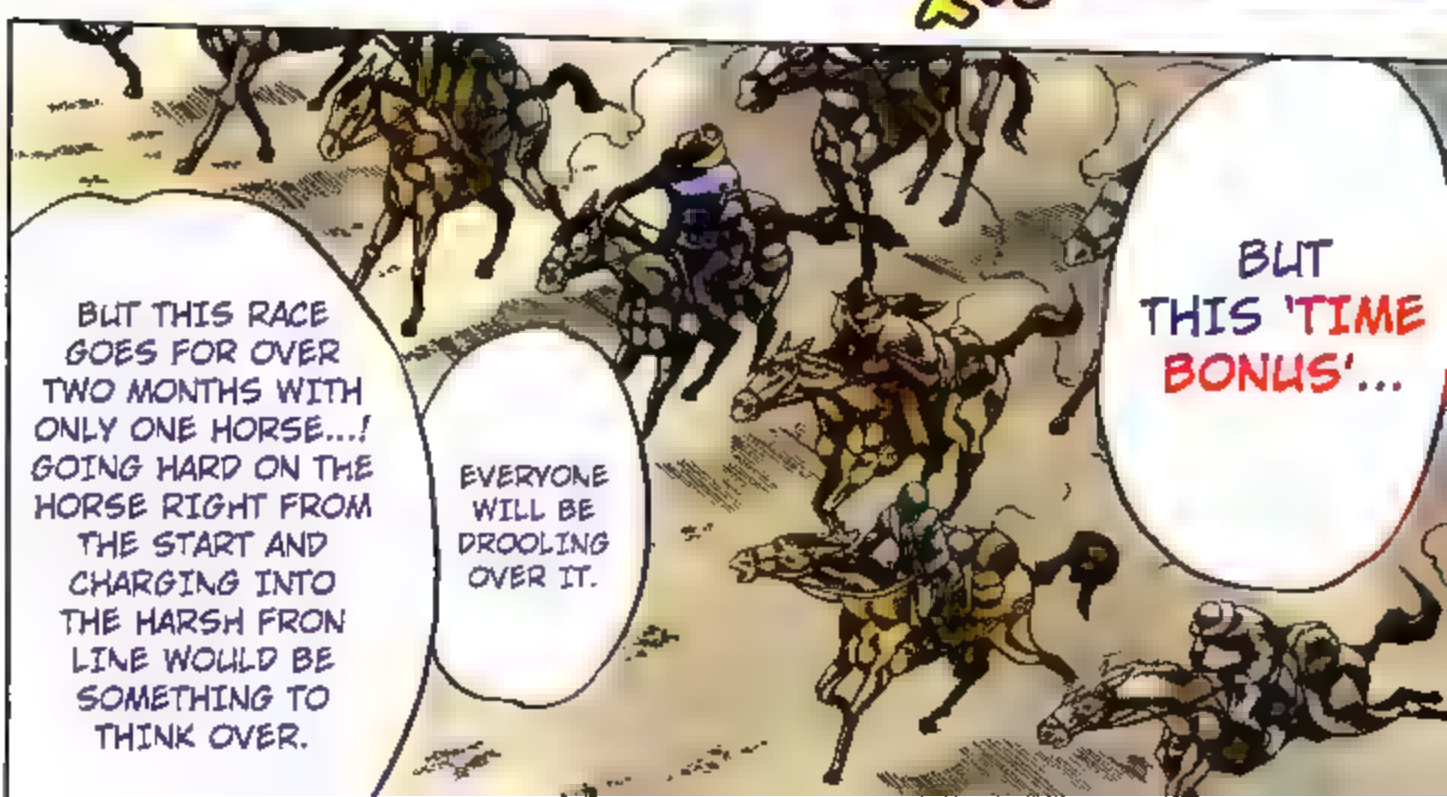
#5 1ST STAGE, 15,000 METERS


SLOWLY, AS IF THE WAVES OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN CRAWLED ONTO THE LAND, ALL ARE RUNNING AT ONCE!
THE STARTING GRID STRETCHES OVER 4 KM.
OVER 3,600 HORSES! AND THERE IS NO MASS CONFUSION AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS.
WE WILL ALSO DECIDE THE CHAMPTION OF EACH STAGE... AND PRESENT A PRIZE MONEY BONUS.
AND EACH RACE UP TO THEIR RESPECTIVE CHECKPOINTS WILL BE CALLED A 'STAGE'.
1st STAGE 15,000 Meters
THESE CHECKPOINTS ARE TO IDENTIFY 'RACE RANKING', 'RUNNING TIME', AND TO CHECK FOR 'ILLEGAL ACTIVITY', SUCH AS CHANGING HORSES.
THE FIRST STAGE THAT HAS JUST STARTED IS A SPRINT RACE THAT WILL END AT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH 15,000 METERS AHEAD.
NINE STAGES IN TOTAL!
THERE ARE CHECKPOINTS SET IN NINE PLACES, INCLUDING NEW YORK, AS SHOWN ON THIS MAP.
BETWEENT THE 6,000 KM FROM SAN DIEGO TO NEW YORK AND THE ATLANTIC OCEAN...
NEW YORK
SAN DIEGO
FELLOW JOURNALISTS, I WILL NOW DESCRIBE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RACE AND THE ROUTES.

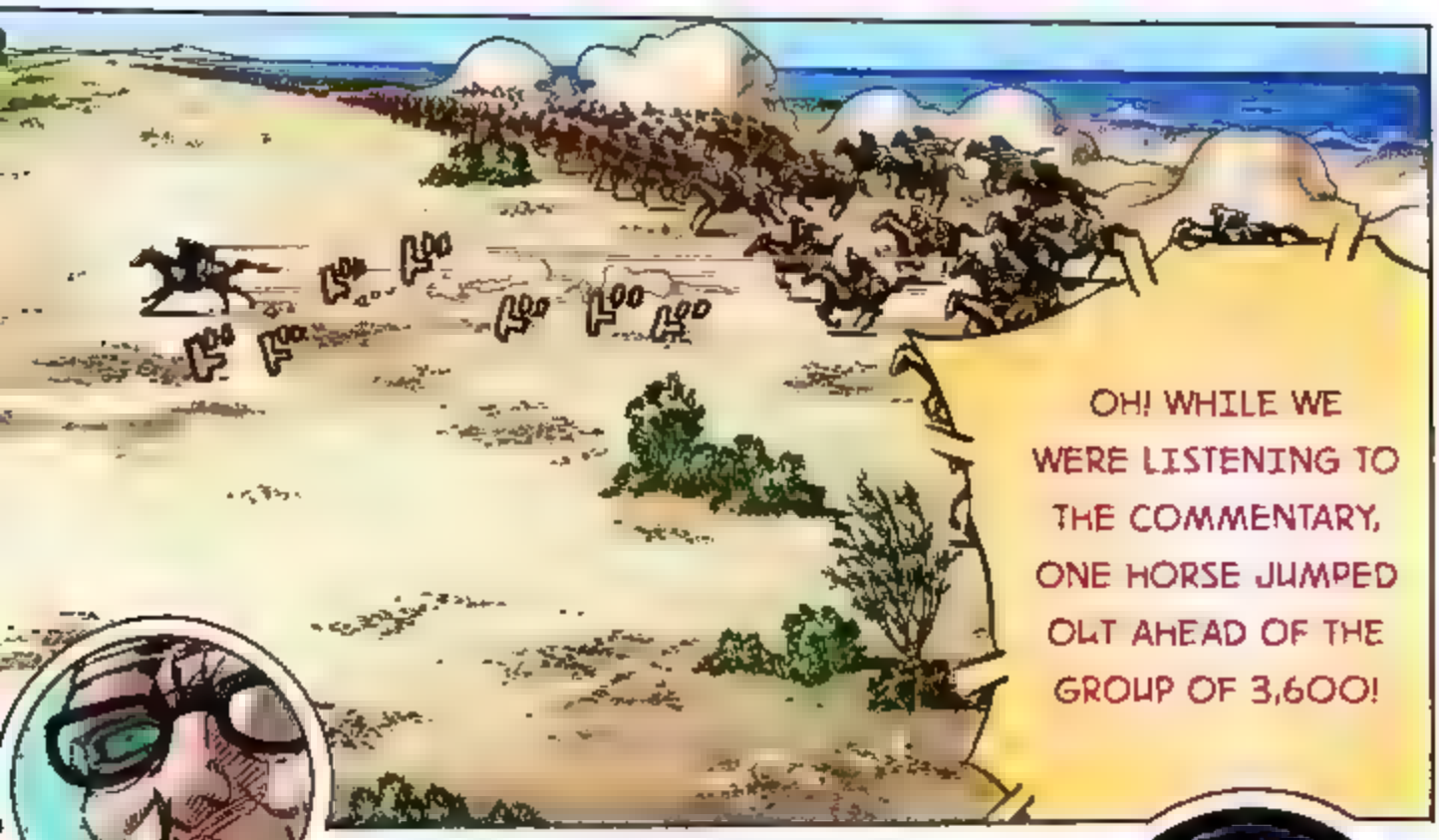
TO THE STAGE CHAMPION!
$10,000 AND A ONE HOUR TIME BONUS!

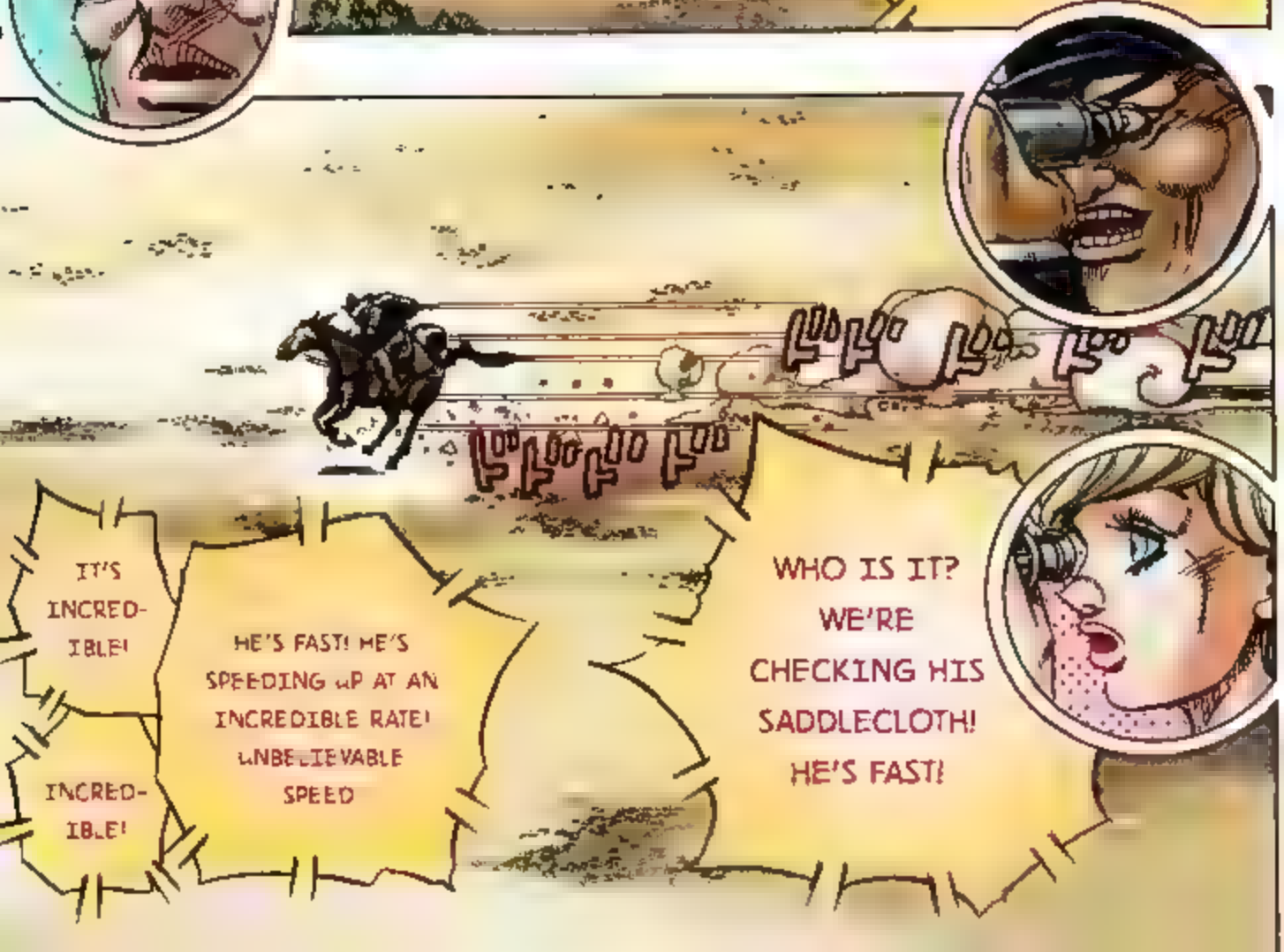

THAT MEANS, FOR INSTANCE, THAT IF YOU HAVE A BONUS AND PASS THE GOAL IN NEW YORK IN 2ND PLACE, BUT YOU ARE LESS THAN ONE HOUR BEHIND FIRST PLACE, THEN YOU WILL BE THE WINNER.
IN OTHER WORDS, IN YOUR TOTAL TIME IS DECREASED BY AN HOUR.
CORRECT
IT WILL BE VERY USEFUL IN THE LAST HALF OF THE RACE.


A TIME BONUS...
THAT MEANS.


BUT THIS RACE GOES FOR OVER TWO MONTHS WITH ONLY ONE HORSE...! GOING HARD ON THE HORSE RIGHT FROM THE START AND CHARGING INTO THE HARSH FRON LINE WOULD BE SOMETHING TO THINK OVER.
EVERYONE WILL BE DROOLING OVER IT.
BUT THIS 'TIME BONUS'...

YOU COULD EASILY BREAK YOUR HORSE RIGHT AWAY.


OH! WHILE WE WERE LISTENING TO THE COMMENTARY, ONE HORSE JUMPED OUT AHEAD OF THE GROUP OF 3,600!


IT'S INCRED-IBLE!
INCRED-IBLE!
HE'S FAST! HE'S SPEEDING UP AT AN INCREDIBLE RATE! UNBELIEVABLE SPEED
WHO IS IT? WE'RE CHECKING HIS SADDLECLOTH! HE'S FAST!

RACING SOLO! HE'S TRYING TO MAKE A CLEAN GETAWAY FOR THE FULL 15,000 METERS!
INCREDIBLE! RACING NUMBER B-636, GYRO ZEPPELI HAS LEFT THE GROUP!
RECORDED AS GYRO ZEPPELI!
HE'S NOT SLOWING DOWN!
THE '1ST STAGE' IS QUICKLY TURNING INTO SOMETHING UNEXPECTED.
WHAT'S THE NUMBER ON THE SADDLE-CLOTH?
IDENTI-FIED AS B-636.
THE NUMBER IS B-636!
THE SADDLE-CLOTH!
ZEPPELI...

WHO IS HE?
I DON'T KNOW. THERE'S NO RECORD.
HE COULD BE A COWBOY OR A MINER.
HE... HE'S PLANNING TO CHARGE HERE
HE'S STILL SPEEDING UP!

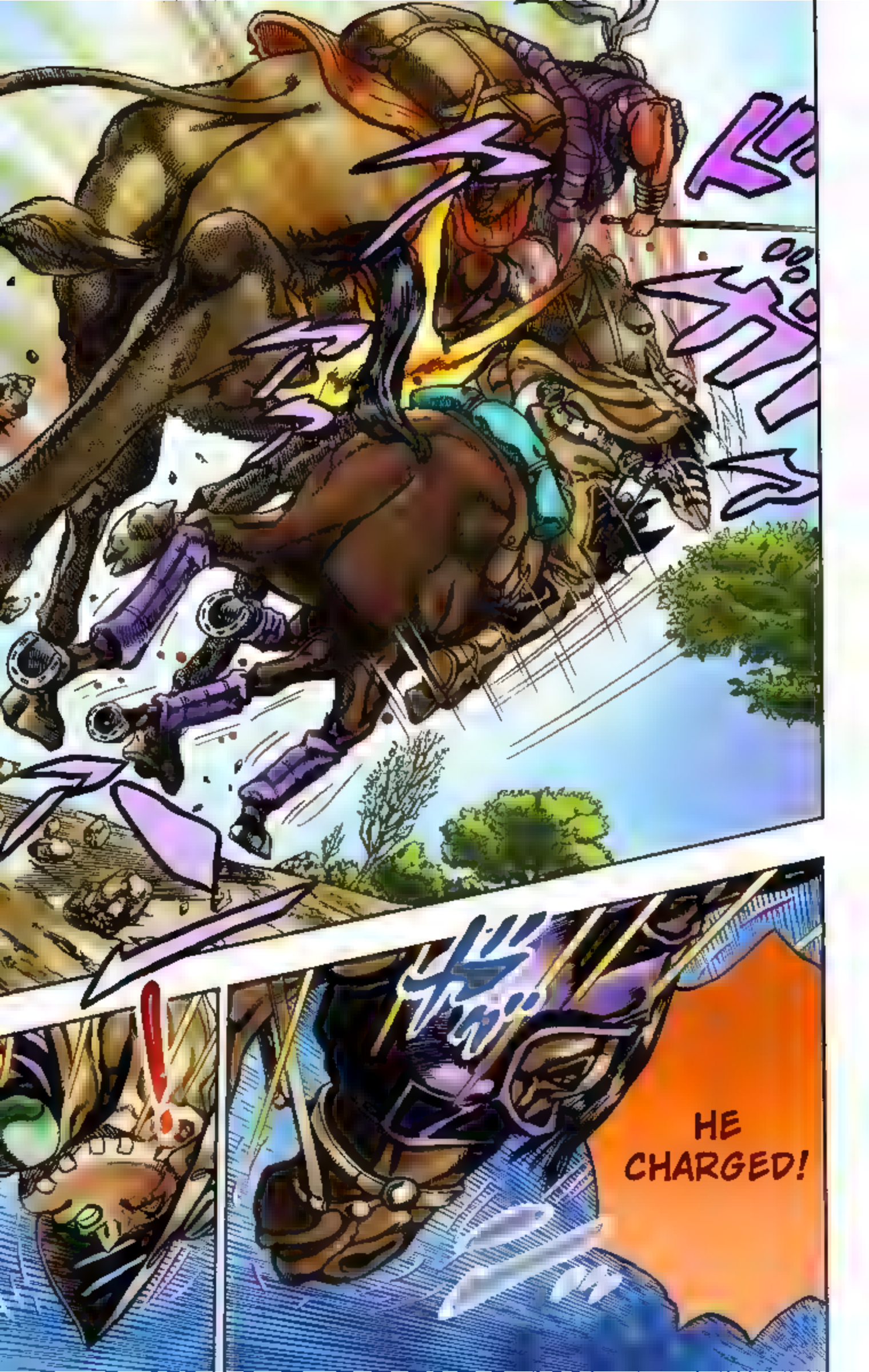
THE HORSE HE'S RIDING ON HERE IS A 'STOCK HORSE'. ...
I'VE HEARD THEY HAVE AUSTRALIAN ROOTS AND AMAZING STAMINA.
GYRO ZEPPELI.
IS HE RELYING ON THAT STAMINA HERE?
NO... HE SAID HE'LL 'WIN THE RACE'. TO CROSS THE CONTINENT AND BECOME THE CHAMPION.
HE'LL DEFINITELY TIRE OUT IN THE LATER HALF! AND THERE'S A RACE TOMORROW TOO! GOING FOR IT AFTER 13,000 WOULD BE REASONABLE...
BUT IT'S 15,000 METERS.
BUT RACING A THAT SPEED... IS HE REALLY THINKING ABOUT CROSSING THE CONTINENT LIKE THAT?

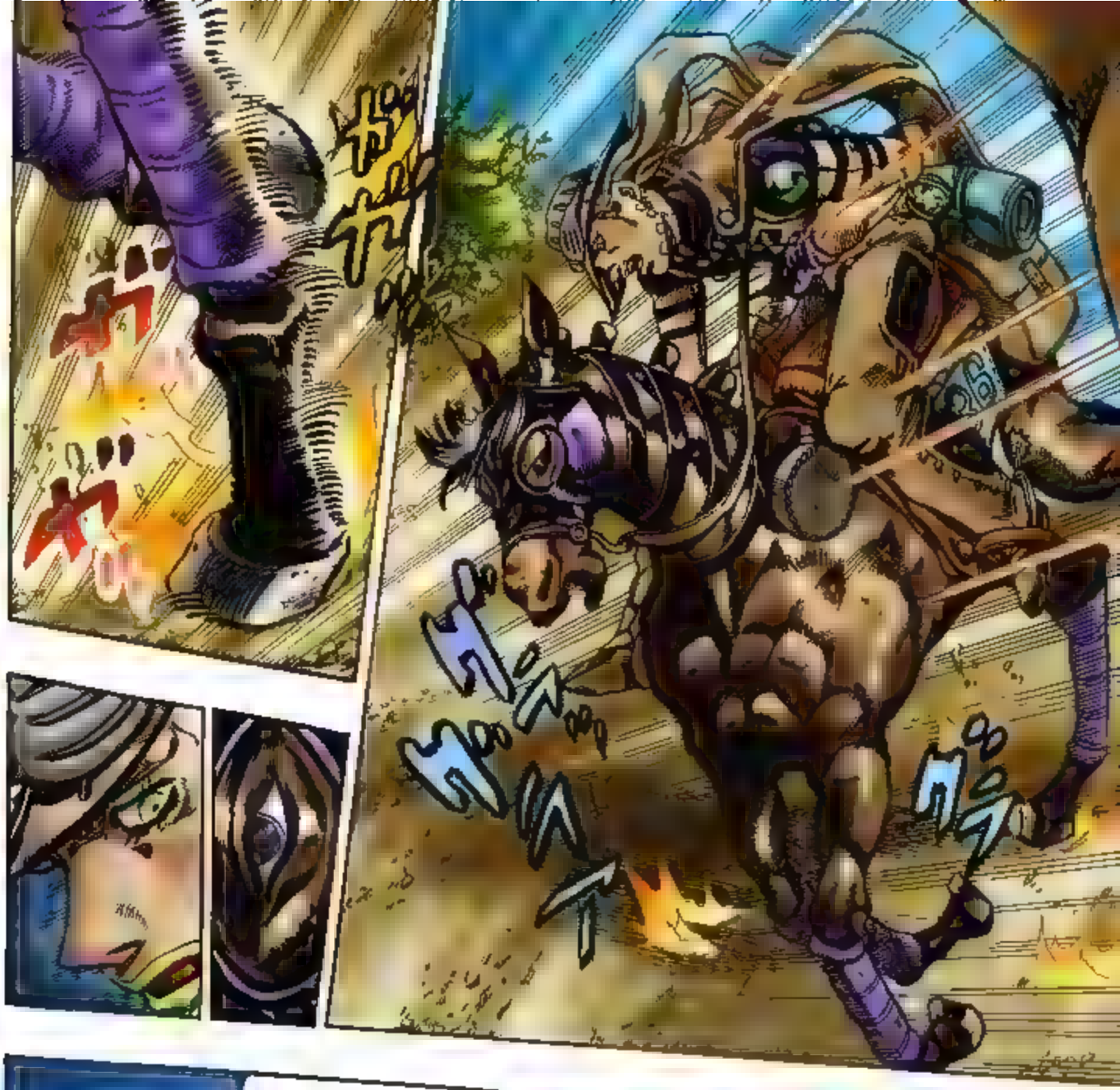
THE OTHER HORSES ARE BECOMING AGITATED BECAUSE HE JUMPED OUT OF THE GROUP!
IT LEANED!
LO
!!
POP

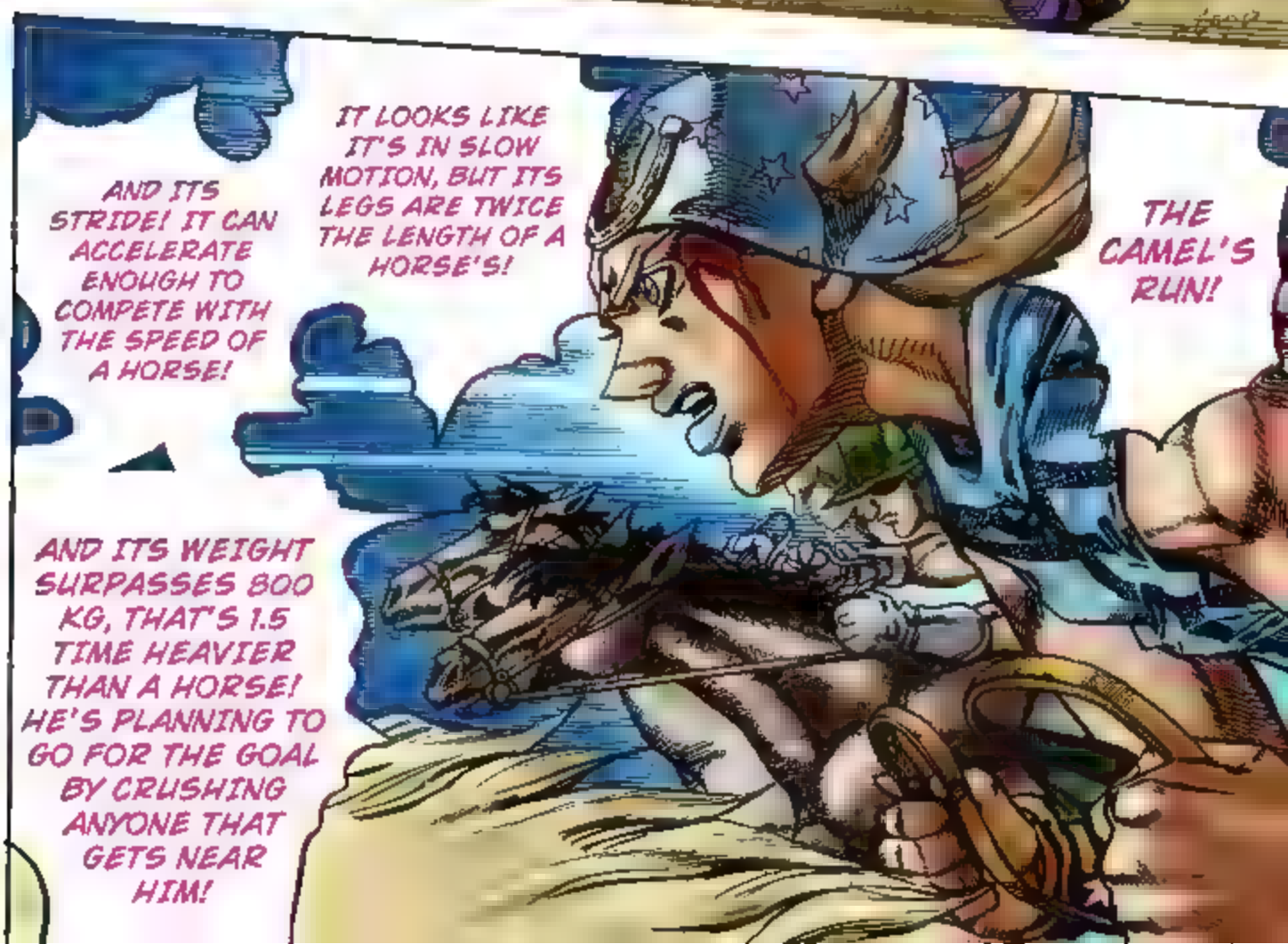
OH NO! A COLLISSION HAS OCCURRED!
THEY'RE RUNNING INTO EACH OTHER! IT'S FINALLY LOOKING LIKE A RACE NOW!
COWBOYS CONTROL HERDS OF CATTLE BY DODGING THEIR CHARGES. DODGING CHARGES IS A MUST!
STILL . BODY CHARGING IS NOT AGAINST THE RULES

NO! WAIT! THERE'S ALREADY...
THERE'S ALREADY SOMEONE CLOSING IN FROM BEHIND AND TO THE LEFT!
ZEPPELI IS IN HIS RANGE!
HE'S ALREADY CLOSING IN!
ANOTHER ONE HAS JUMPED OUT OF THE GROUP!
AND NOW THERE IS A CHALLENGER AGAINST GYRO ZEPPELI!
HE'S CHASING!
HE'S CHASING.
HE'S CHASING AND CLOSING IN ON GYRO!
THE PRINCE OF THE BRITISH HORSERACING WORLD PLANS TO CHALLENGE, AS IF HE'S SAYING 'SHORT RANGE RACING IS MY TERRITORY'!
IT'S DIEGO BRANDO!

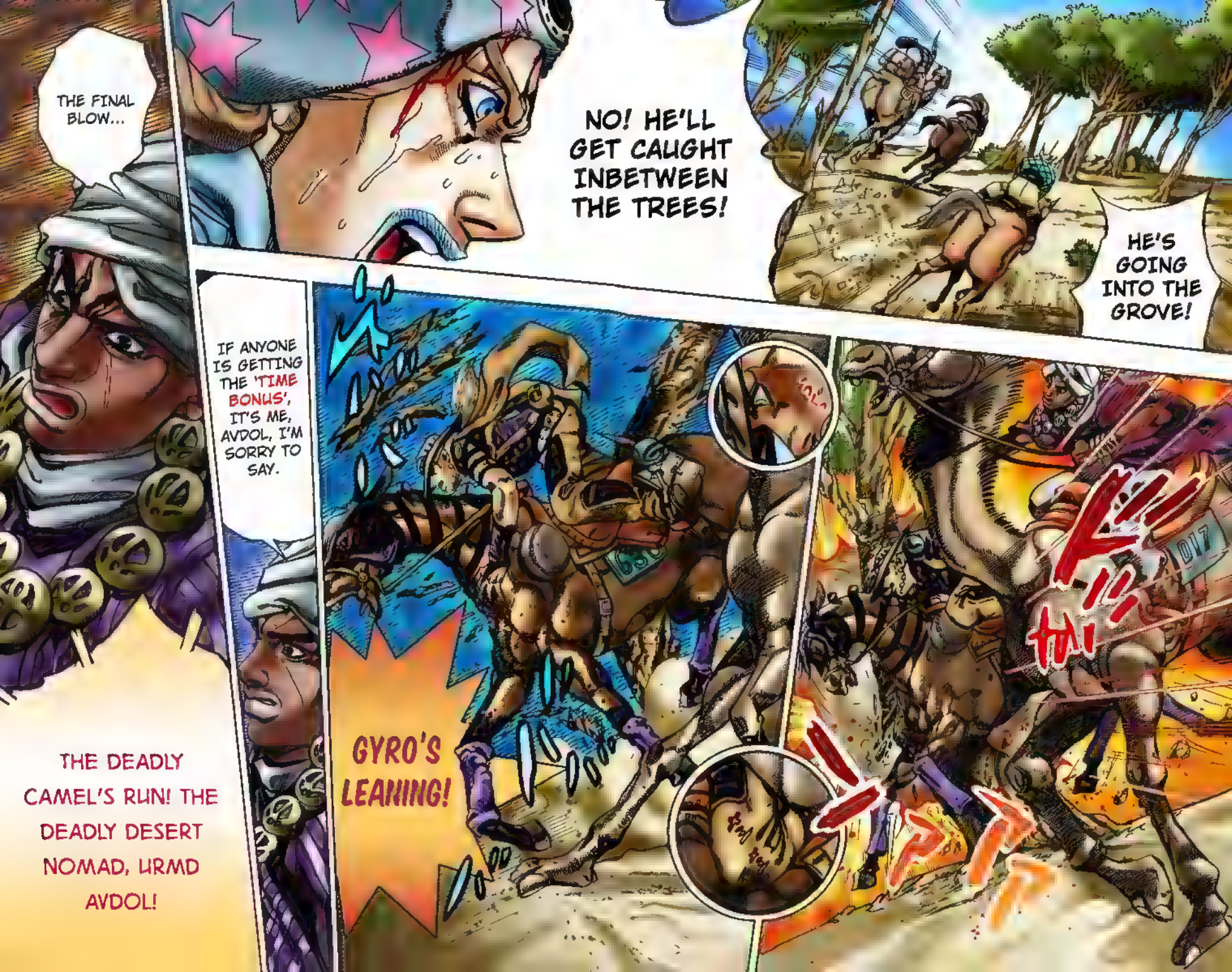
THE LARGE MASS IS THE CHAMPION CANDIDATE URMD AVDOL ON CAMEL-BACK!


HE CHARGED!



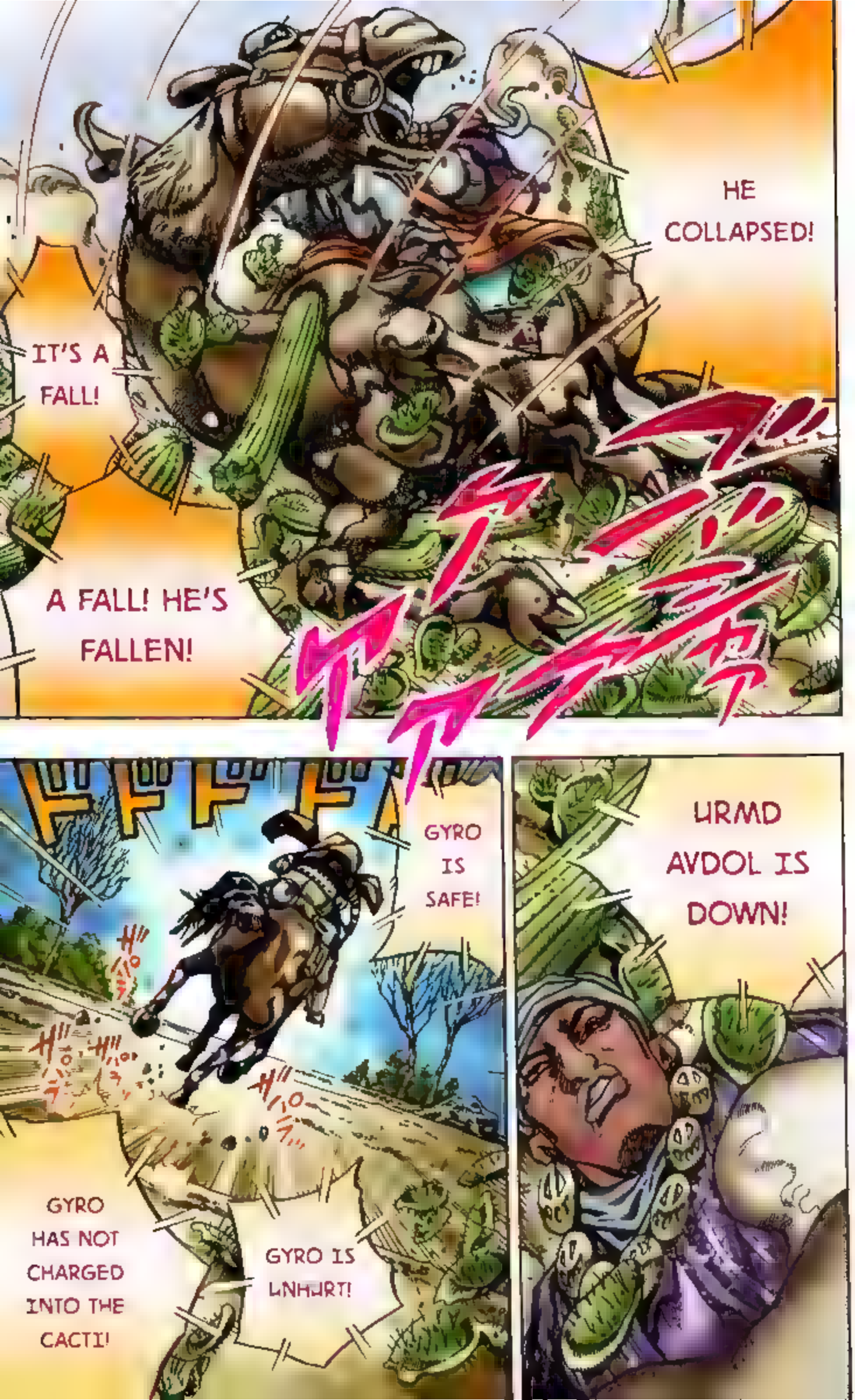

THE CAMEL'S RUN!
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S IN SLOW MOTION, BUT ITS LEGS ARE TWICE THE LENGTH OF A HORSE'S!
AND ITS STRIDE! IT CAN ACCELERATE ENOUGH TO COMPETE WITH THE SPEED OF A HORSE!
AND ITS WEIGHT SURPASSES 800 KG, THAT'S 1.5 TIME HEAVIER THAN A HORSE! HE'S PLANNING TO GO FOR THE GOAL BY CRUSHING ANYONE THAT GETS NEAR HIM!

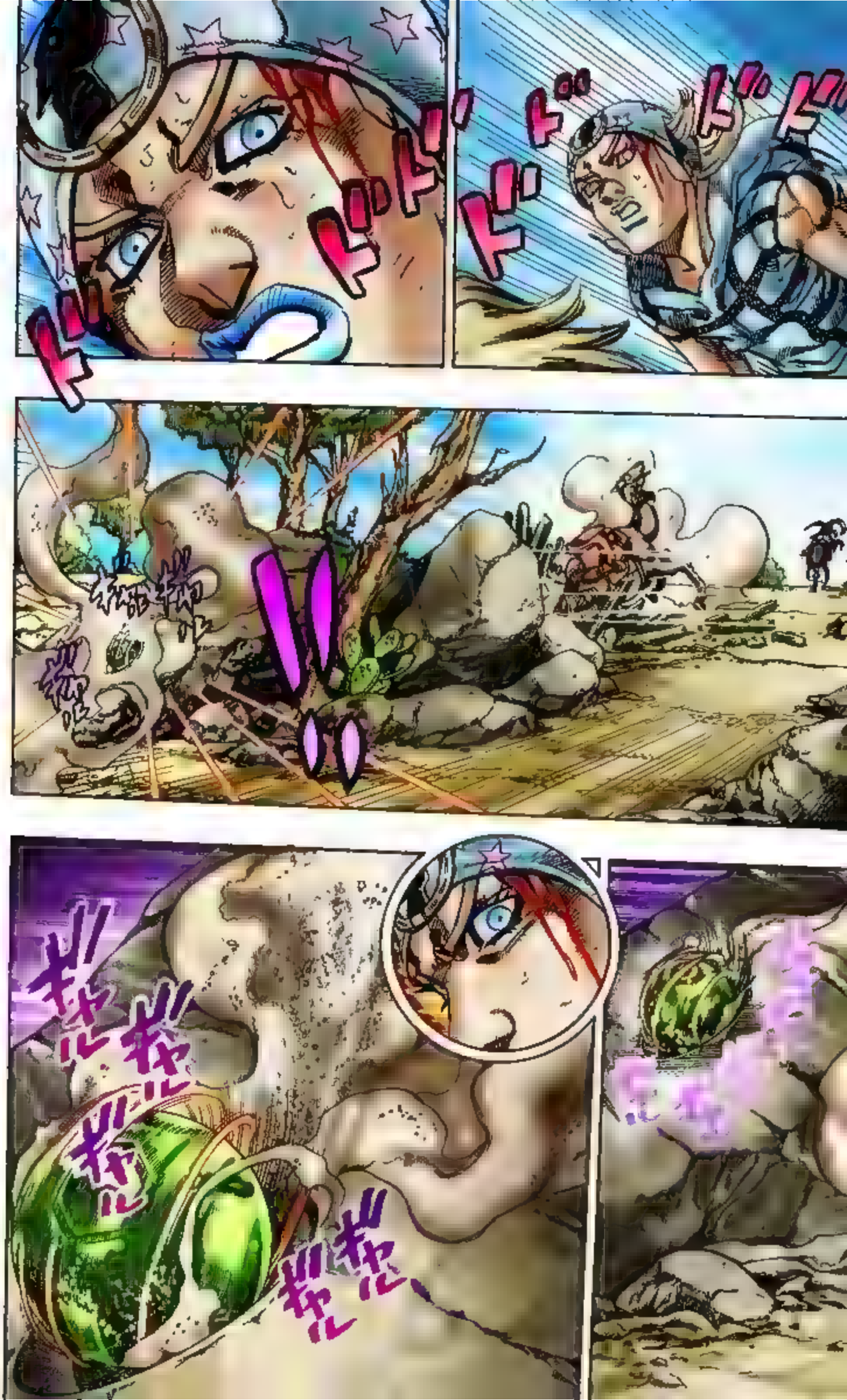
ANOTHER HIT!
DIEGO BRANDO HAS TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THIS SLACK AND GOES FORWARD! FORWARD!
GYRO IS LOSING SPEED!


THE FINAL BLOW...
NO! HE'LL GET CAUGHT INBETWEEN THE TREES!
HE'S GOING INTO THE GROVE!
IF ANYONE IS GETTING THE 'TIME BONUS', IT'S ME, AVDOL, I'M SORRY TO SAY.
GYRO'S LEANING!
THE DEADLY CAMEL'S RUN! THE DEADLY DESERT NOMAD, URMD AVDOL!

HE LUNGED!
N... NO!
IT'S CACTI! AVDOL LUNGED INTO A CLUSTER OF CACTI!
HE'S CLOSING IN AGAIN! HE CAN'T HOLD OFF ANYMORE! HE'LL BE STRUCK DOWN! GYRO ZEPPELI!

BUU BAA AAA AH!
THE CAMEL CHARGED INTO THE CACTI!
DID HE NOT SEE IT BECAUSE THEY WERE BLOCKED BY THE GROVE?!


HE COLLAPSED!
IT'S A FALL!
A FALL! HE'S FALLEN!
GYRO IS SAFE!
URMD AVDOL IS DOWN!
GYRO HAS NOT CHARGED INTO THE CACTI!
GYRO IS UNHURT!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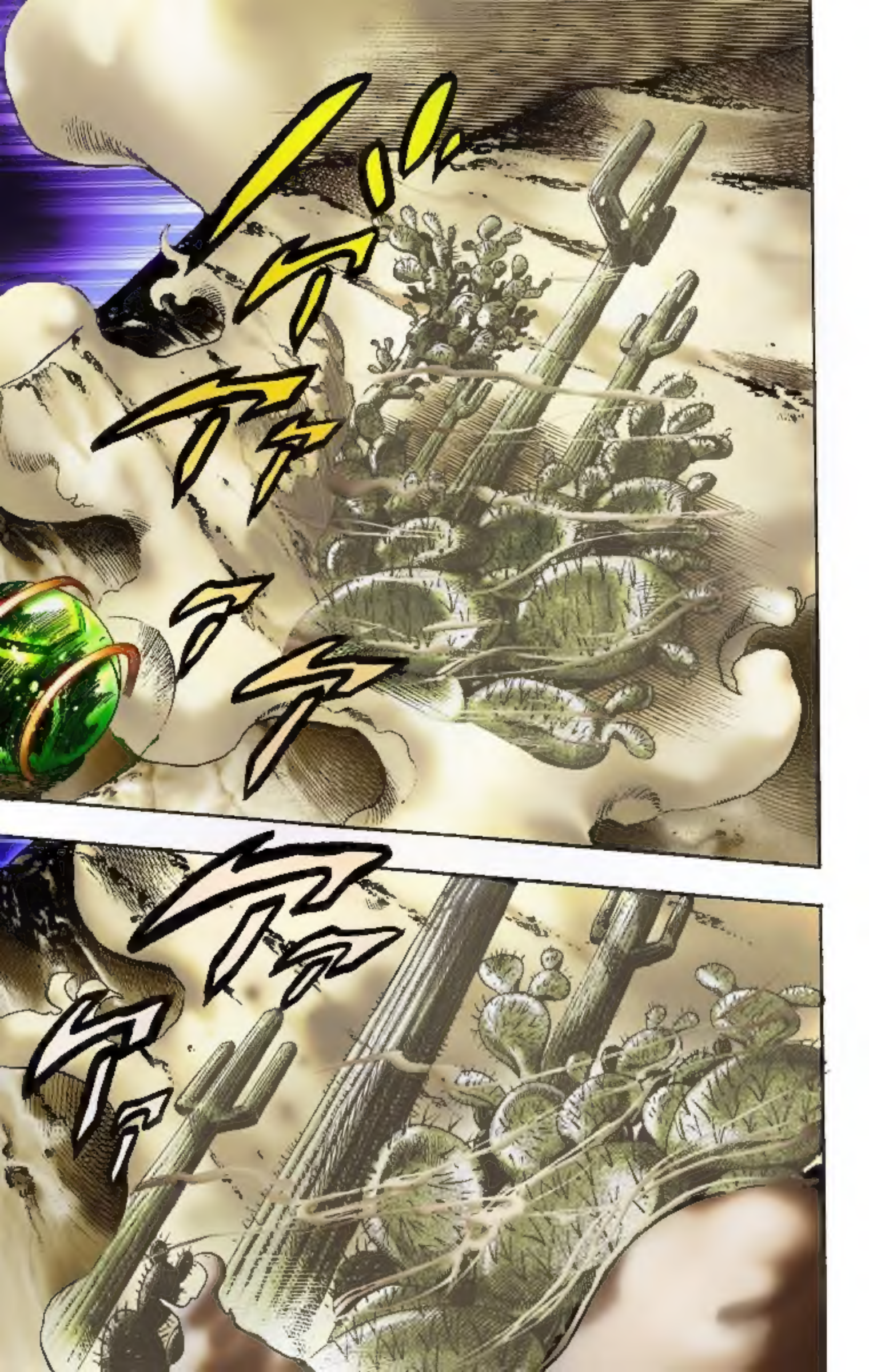

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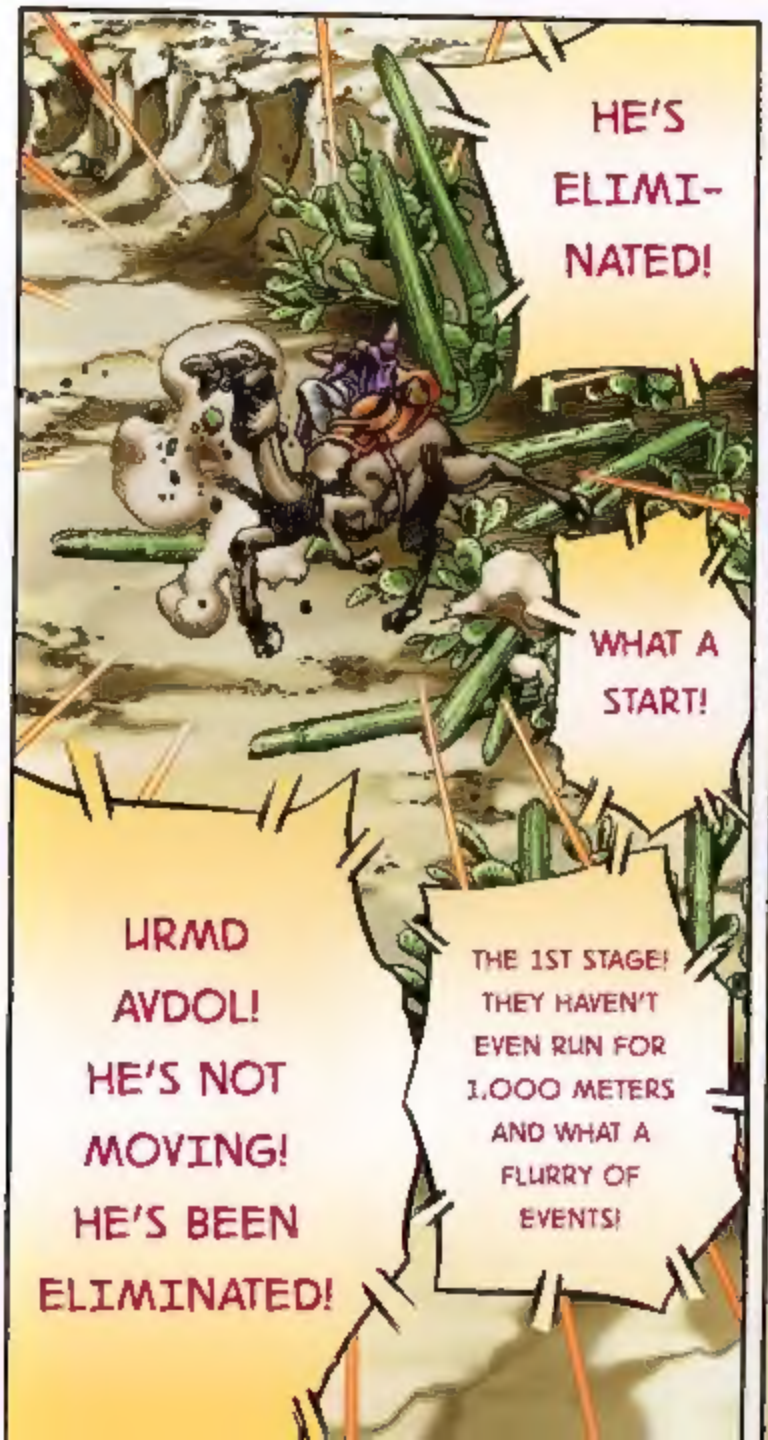
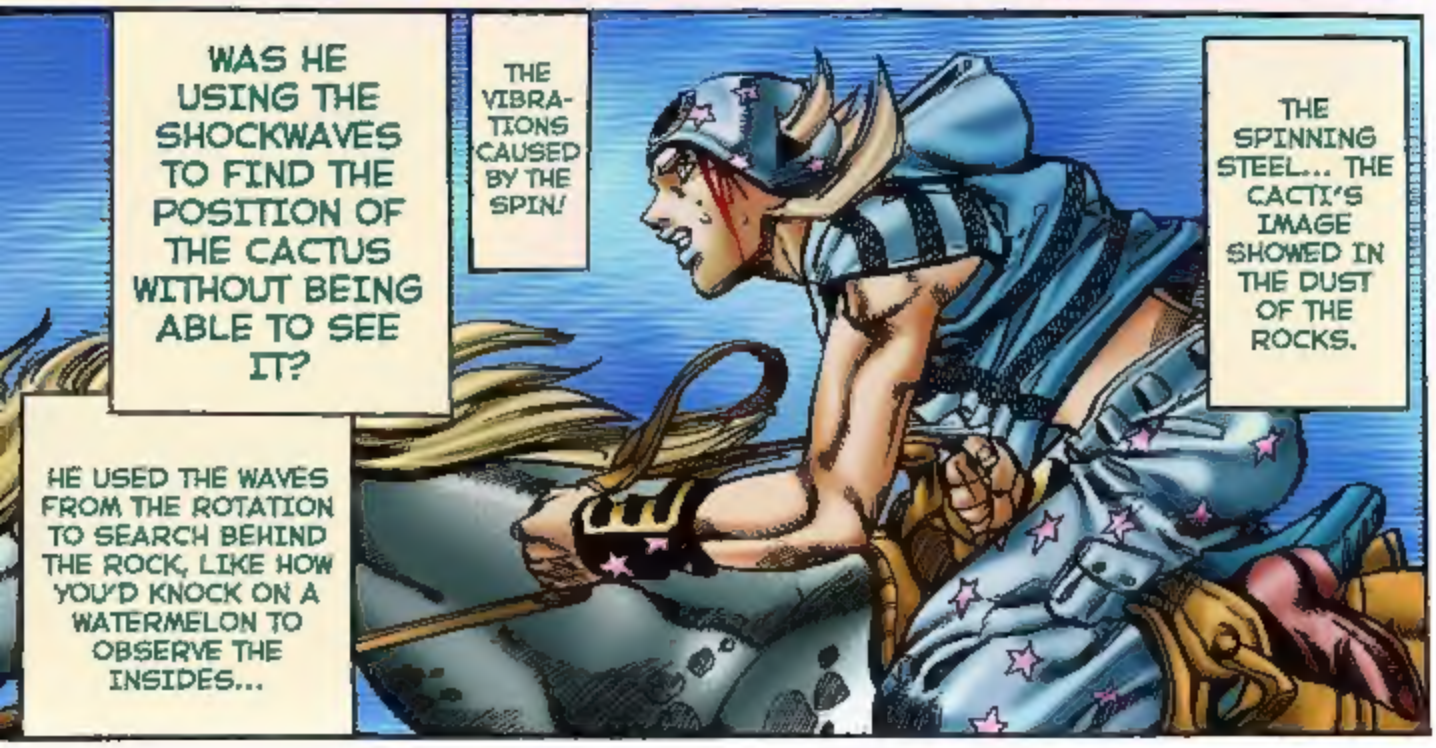

HE'S ELIMI-NATED!
WHAT A START!
THE 1ST STAGE! THEY HAVEN'T EVEN RUN FOR 1,000 METERS AND WHAT A FLURRY OF EVENTS!
URMD AVDOL! HE'S NOT MOVING! HE'S BEEN ELIMINATED!

WAS IT BECAUSE OF THE STEEL BALL AGAIN?!
THE STEEL BALL!
WHAT JUST HAP-PENED ?!
WHAT JUST HAPPENED ?!
A CHAMPION CANDIDATE HAS ALREADY BEEN ELIMINATED FROM THE RACE!


WAS HE USING THE SHOCKWAVES TO FIND THE POSITION OF THE CACTUS WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO SEE IT?
THE VIBRA-TIONS CAUSED BY THE SPIN!
THE SPINNING STEEL... THE CACTI'S IMAGE SHOWED IN THE DUST OF THE ROCKS.
HE USED THE WAVES FROM THE ROTATION TO SEARCH BEHIND THE ROCK, LIKE HOW YOU'D KNOCK ON A WATERMELON TO OBSERVE THE INSIDES...

NFO HO!
...BUT ESPECIALLY A TIME BONUS...

WHAT-EVER I CAN GET...
HE LURED AVDOL INTO THAT CACTI PATCH!
...I'LL TAKE. EXCEPT FOR DISEASES.

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PART7 STEEL BALL RUN
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